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1 EASTERN AND WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 Chief Peter John Tribal Hall
5 Fairbanks, Alaska
6 February 24, 2000
7 8:30 o'clock a.m.

8
9
10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

11
12 EASTERN INTERIOR
13
14 Charles Miller, Sr., Chairman
15 Nathaniel Good
16 Gerald Nicholia
17 Calvin Tritt
18 Knowland Silas
19 Craig Fleener
20 Lincoln Tritt
21 David Jones
22 Jim Wilde

23
24 WESTERN INTERIOR:
25
26 Ronald Sam, Chairman
27 Raymond Collins
28 Henry Deacon
29 Jack Reakoff
30 Angela Demientieff
31 Michael Stickman
32 Benedict Jones
33 Samson Henry

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Where we left off yesterday, we have a couple of items that need to be addressed. But first off I would like to say that it's amazing the dedication of the Regional Council members, many of the Staff and guests don't know what you had to go through to get here. You had a motor problem, you had to replace the motor, you had to get someone else to drive you in. Others had plane that were canceled, others were planes that wouldn't fly on holidays, and then on top of that you had a member last night that went to an advisory committee meeting and returned to this meeting. So I think it should be noted on the record the extreme level of dedication that this group has in trying to coordinate between different systems.

The items we have today -- well, one item we need to, by noon, I've already alerted the staff here that we may go into the evening but I told them we would confirm that by noon because they have to go out and get staff set up.

Let's see, the other thing we left off yesterday was there was a discussion about a letter of support for the community harvest quota, if that's the right term, for Chalkyitsic that's working its way through the Board of Game. So that's an item we need to revisit and see if there's any action items there. And then from there we would go into, and I think Ron has a list where we go from there.

CHAIRMAN MILLER: That letter got drafted up last night?

MR. MATHEWS: No, the one letter did not get drafted up because it was requested that people think about it overnight. The one letter on the community harvest. The other letter on the brown bear and et cetera, I'd have to ask George on that.

MR. SHERROD: I'm going to go do it after -- I was going to go do it after we get through with all the proposals so I could roll it all into one.

MR. MATHEWS: I'm getting -- you guys did take action on the brown bear and all that. You didn't take action on the community harvest unless I missed it,

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1 which is possible. So we need to decide if -- basically
2 Western Interior wanted to think about it overnight if I
3 remember correctly.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. I think we agreed on
6 the concept of community harvest because in the long-run,
7 it may have some significant impact on subsistence. While
8 we don't outrightly agree with everything in Proposal 125
9 and 126 and 127, we would like more information and more
10 studies or feasibility studies on ideas such as Proposals
11 125, 126 and 127. And I think we asked for a letter to be
12 drafted but not totally endorsing Proposals 125, 126 and
13 127 in its entirety. Is that the gist that we had from
14 Western Interior?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The record shows that
17 Western Interior, by consensus, agrees that a letter of
18 support for the idea of a community harvest but not support
19 for the actual details of Proposals as mentioned. Thank
20 you. And Eastern still agrees with that, correct?

21
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would it be appropriate at
27 this time to cover Koyukuk River Moose Working Plan?

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: I think it would be at this
30 time because we have -- I'm not sure, is Randy here -- yes,
31 Randy's here.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Randy's here.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: And everyone had a cup of
36 coffee and hopefully a donut so it would be a good time to
37 start.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, apparently Glenn Stout
40 will be here.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: He's here.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks. Then I'd like
45 to go over this plan and the proposals that generate it and
46 then I think it would alleviate a lot of fears of our
47 constituents. I see George Yaska is still here so if need
48 be we will revisit Proposal 48. So at this time I would
49 like to turn it over to Randy Rogers and Glenn Stout on the
50 five year plan.

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1 And also for your information, Robert Nick and
2 Fritz George of Kuskokwim will be checking out at noon so
3 we will -- I would like to bring up Area M and the three
4 resolutions somewhere around 11:00 o'clock this morning if
5 it's fine with all the Councils.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll
10 get started and give a little bit of an overview on the
11 plan and then ask Glenn to follow-up with a little bit of
12 information on recent biological work and what we're
13 looking at in terms of some of the permit numbers for the
14 Lower Koyukuk.

15
16 To start with, I'd like to once again thank members
17 of the Western Interior Advisory Council for your interest
18 in this project and support throughout the time. In
19 particular, we had several Western Interior Council members
20 involved in it and we really appreciate that. Benedict
21 Jones has been the Council's representative, designated in
22 the meeting you had in Galena a little over a year ago.
23 Micky Stickman's also been involved as a representative of
24 Middle Yukon Advisory Committee. And the Fish and Wildlife
25 Service has made it possible for both Ron Sam and Jack
26 Reakoff to attend almost every meeting we've had and we
27 really appreciate the involvement of the Council and the
28 process. There's been valuable contributions by all the
29 Council members.

30
31 I'm also happy to share information on this project
32 with the Eastern Interior Council members. I think it's
33 great that you have an opportunity to learn about what's
34 been going on in the Koyukuk here. One thing I would like
35 to emphasis, though, is that, we've had a process going on
36 there on the Koyukuk and this working group put together,
37 but that's not necessarily the template we would use for
38 future planning processes, whether it be Eastern/Western,
39 wherever we work next. What we would want to do is look at
40 the specific instances and issues in any topic that we
41 might want to address with the planning effort and work
42 with the individuals involved and design a process that
43 would work for the particular situation. I think we've
44 learned quite a bit, both good and bad, about the process
45 in this Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group.
46 Hopefully, mostly on the positive side but there's always
47 lessons to be learned.

48
49 Since Western Interior Council members are pretty
50 familiar with this project, I'm going to try to give it a

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1 pretty quick overview but will be around to answer
2 additional questions. Quite a bit has happened since we
3 discussed the preliminary recommendations of the Koyukuk
4 River Moose Hunters Working Group in Aniak last October.
5 In October and November I traveled to nearly every village
6 in the Koyukuk and Middle Yukon Rivers to discuss the plan
7 with residents in the villages, explain what was being
8 proposed and listen to what they had to say about it. We
9 discussed the plan on several occasions at the Fairbanks
10 Advisory Committee and then I also attended a meeting of
11 the Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee which was pretty
12 much entirely devoted to just discussing the Koyukuk
13 planning project.

14
15 The Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group met
16 in early December to review comments on the preliminary
17 recommendations, consider new information from fall moose
18 surveys and then decide what revisions were needed to the
19 plan. The most significant change that came out of the
20 December meeting was the working group's recommendation to
21 change the general hunt in the Koyukuk controlled use area
22 from a registration hunt to a drawing hunt with a limit on
23 the number of permits that will be available. As you
24 recall, in the past, and in particular, last year, there
25 was a limit of 200 permits by registration at one time at
26 the Ella's Cabin checkstation. But we found that that
27 really wasn't effective in controlling the overall level of
28 hunting activity there. It turned out that as hunters
29 wanted to go back in, some came out so we hovered right
30 around or just below the 200 permit limit but ended up with
31 a significant increase in hunters despite that limit. That
32 information combined with the moose survey information is
33 what led the working group to recommend that we needed to
34 go ahead and go to a drawing hunt to be more effective.

35
36 A little later Glenn will provide some specific
37 information on numbers of permits that we're looking at for
38 the general hunt in the Lower Koyukuk for the 2000 hunting
39 season. What remains uncertain, however, is how many
40 Alaska residents will choose to participate in the
41 subsistence hunt. Keeping in mind that under State law,
42 all Alaska residents are eligible for subsistence and we
43 haven't proposed any restrictions on the number of
44 subsistence hunters there. So we're going to have to watch
45 that situation very carefully and make sure that the
46 initial recommendations in this plan are effective in
47 dealing with the situation.

48
49 What the plan does, though, is it outlines -- gives
50 a fairly detailed description of State subsistence law and

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1 allocation procedures. And the likely scenarios that the
2 Board of Game would have to follow to further restrict
3 harvest, if needed, because of increased participation from
4 Alaska residents or if the moose resource declined. So
5 those are variables that we can't have an absolute
6 prediction of how they'll play out at this point in time so
7 there are mechanisms built into the plan to acknowledge
8 that changes may be needed in addition to these initial
9 recommendations.

10
11 The working group has gone on record as
12 recommending a pretty strict policy on distinguishing the
13 subsistence hunt from the general hunt down there. And
14 hopefully this will help discourage a lot of folks to
15 participate in that subsistence hunt under those permits
16 unless they're main interest truly is subsistence meat.
17 Specifically, the policy will be that in the subsistence
18 permit, antlers would have to be cut through the main beam.
19 This will be a more complete and effective means of
20 destroying trophy value of antlers. That will destroy --
21 leave a scar on the main beam which would be visible even
22 if it was repaired afterwards. To go along with that, the
23 group's recommended a strict policy on requiring the
24 salvage of the head. So hopefully those two provisions
25 will really have that hunt end up focusing on the true
26 subsistence users and again, those provisions come from the
27 Board of Game's original determination of some of the
28 factors that were customary and traditional for subsistence
29 users in that area.

30
31 The working group agreed to recommend a closure of
32 the antlerless moose season in the general hunt. However,
33 one member didn't agree to recommend a temporary closure on
34 the cow moose hunt in the fall subsistence hunt. So
35 effectively, the group didn't have consensus. You know,
36 had this been a voting group then there would have been,
37 you know, a clear majority that were in favor of
38 discontinuing the cow moose hunt in the fall completely in
39 the Lower Koyukuk. However, since we did operate by
40 consensus, we didn't have consensus on that point so the
41 recommendation going to the Board of Game will be to
42 reauthorize antlerless hunts but to not have an allowance
43 for taking of cows in the general hunt.

44
45 The Department feels, based on the recent moose
46 surveys that it's important to reduce the cow hunt as much
47 as possible and so we will be recommending a closure to the
48 cow hunt for both, the general and subsistence permits, but
49 also will recommend keeping the winter hunt open for the
50 taking of cows and that will focus on the local subsistence

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1 user, primarily.

2

3 Following the December working group meeting, Glenn
4 and I drafted seven proposals to the Board of Game on
5 behalf of the group. It was a little bit tricky trying to
6 figure out how to mix and match these proposals to make it
7 as clear and straightforward as possible. And despite our
8 best efforts there is a bit of confusion out there, still,
9 as to how the proposals all fit together and what the final
10 result of all of them will look like in the regulations.
11 We're going to have to work to really clarify that to the
12 Board of Game next week. Next, I went to work on trying to
13 prepare a more complete draft of the entire plan to get
14 before the working group to review prior to the Board of
15 Game meeting. I was hoping to have that draft ready to
16 pass out to you folks here today but just have not quite
17 completed it. The draft you have gotten in your books is
18 very close to identical and I'll tell you what a few of the
19 key changes are.

20

21 Now, we have been before a couple of different
22 advisory committees with the plan and the proposals and
23 there will be a few mixed opinions expressed to the Board
24 of Game. So it will be important for folks to let the
25 Board know exactly where they stand on this. The working
26 group meeting held its sixth and perhaps final meeting on
27 February 10th. The group reviewed the Board of Game
28 proposals and the draft plan. They agreed there were some
29 revisions as requested and I'll review with you, the plan
30 reflects their recommendations and should be submitted to
31 the Board of Game.

32

33 So right now, as I said, I'm working on
34 incorporating these revisions and very close to having the
35 Board review drafts and I hope to get that in the mail
36 later today or tomorrow so the Board has a chance to look
37 at it before the meeting.

38

39 A couple of the significant changes that took place
40 after the February meeting is we'll be inserting an
41 executive summary. The plan itself gets a little bit
42 lengthy and wordy and we want to have a little succinct
43 summary up front to hit the key points.

44

45 The working group requested revision to some of the
46 issue statements. In particular, they wanted to strengthen
47 the issue statements related to predator control and some
48 of the actions. As the group has seen, first of all, we
49 looked at the increase in hunter of numbers [sic] we looked
50 at the moose survey data from this fall, it became apparent

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1 that we were looking at cutting back the level of hunting
2 there in terms of the general hunt more than anybody had
3 really envisioned at the start of the process. Initially,
4 the group had been recommending loosening some of the
5 restrictions on bears and wolves, et cetera, to help
6 increase harvest of predators and indirectly cut down on
7 the level of predation. Once we saw the need to
8 significantly cut back in the hunting opportunity the group
9 felt even stronger about the need for predator control and
10 has inserted stronger language into the plan. I think you
11 folks are probably pretty aware of some of the constraints
12 involving predator control in both the State and Federal
13 systems. Some of these are outlined in the plan, there's a
14 little narrative on that issue, too. But the group felt
15 strongly that, you know, despite, whatever laws, regs,
16 bureaucratic policies might be in place, they felt
17 obligated to make that recommendation and it will go on
18 record.

19
20 As I said, there's some varying views on Board of
21 Game proposals and we're going to need to see exactly what
22 happens with the Board of Game. All along we've sought to
23 make the proposals and regulations between the State and
24 Federal process consistent. There has been a proposal to
25 shift the fall subsistence season forward five days, and
26 that's one that we would want to have occur through the
27 Federal system also. One of the difficulties we have right
28 now is not knowing exactly what will come out of the Board
29 of Game meeting and I foresee the need to work with Council
30 members and Staff to consider what kinds of things we need
31 to bring before the Federal Subsistence Board in the effort
32 to keep consistency in the regulations.

33
34 We're pretty excited about presenting the draft
35 Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan to the Board of Game.
36 We hope to be able to involve two to four members of the
37 working group in the presentation. I think there will be,
38 throughout the Board meeting, representatives of both the
39 Middle Yukon River and Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
40 present to talk about the plan and the proposals. I
41 understand Benedict Jones will be representing the Middle
42 Yukon Advisory Committee, Eleanor Yatlan was chosen to
43 represent the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee.

44
45 We know, in terms of circulating the preliminary
46 plan and the drafts that we will get a diversity of views
47 presented to the Board of Game. We're hopeful that the
48 draft plan that's prepared jointly by the Department and
49 working group will receive a favorable consideration and be
50 adopted by the Board.

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1 During the process we certainly welcome any
2 comments, consideration or input that Western Interior
3 Advisory Council would like to provide to the Department
4 and/or the Board. w e really do want to continue working
5 with the Council to achieve consistency in these regs and,
6 again, we really appreciate the involvement of the Council
7 throughout the process.

8
9 I think at this point it might be best to go ahead
10 and turn it over to Glenn to give you a little bit of an
11 update on what's happening with the biological situation
12 there and what we're looking at in terms of some of the
13 permit number. And I'd be happy to take time to walk you
14 folks through the plan a little bit to describe some of the
15 specifics as your time allows. Hopefully you've had a
16 chance to scan it and have a rough idea of what's there
17 anyhow.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
22 Committee members. My name is Glenn Stout, I'm the area
23 biologist for the Department of Fish and Game in Galena.
24 And what I'm handing out here is some of the information
25 that we've been presenting to the working group I think
26 that will be fairly familiar to people that have been
27 working with it.

28
29 The first two pages are just kind of a brief
30 summary of the Ella's Cabin checkstation results, give you
31 an idea of the direction we've been going. It's been a
32 fairly consistent trend on the increasing number of
33 hunters. The first page is the '98 results, second page,
34 the 1999 results. As you can see we went from 587 hunters
35 harvesting 345 moose up to 704 hunters harvesting 369
36 moose. As Randy mentioned the cow harvest is pretty high
37 and one of our concerns there was trying to cut down that
38 cow harvest during the fall.

39
40 Page 3 and 4 are draft excerpts from the moose
41 management reports that we're currently working on. And
42 it's a section just pertaining to the population trends
43 currently in Game Management Units 21(D) and 24. And the
44 estimates, basically, are demonstrating that from our
45 surveys where we had -- in '96, '97 we had a population
46 estimate in 21(D) of upwards of 10,000 moose, we're down to
47 the eight to 9,000 moose range right now. In 24, on Page
48 4, we you'll see we had an estimate of up to 12,000 moose
49 and right now we're sitting at about 9,000 moose plus or
50 minus 1,500. We were able to conduct a population

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1 estimation survey in Unit 24 this year covering 8,390
2 square miles and it was basically from Hughes north up to
3 the Park and west, including the Alatna River drainage as
4 far east over the Dalton Highway Corridor. So we had a
5 pretty good estimate on what's going on in 24. In that
6 area, the thing we had for comparison was on the Kanuti
7 Refuge where we had had estimates before the '93 estimate.
8 You can see in the table there at the bottom was somewhere
9 on the order of 2,000 plus or minus 294. Our '99 estimate
10 for that same area is 959 plus or minus 141. So we had a
11 pretty marked decline in the number of moose in that area.
12 We also have done a wolf survey down in the lower part of
13 the Koyukuk and we estimate increase of wolves of
14 approximately 17 percent, and so we have two things,
15 obviously, working in the opposite direction as far as our
16 moose numbers are concerned.

17
18 Where this all leads us then is the last page there
19 on Proposal 30 analysis. And this proposal is the one that
20 Randy was talking about regarding the permit -- drawing
21 permit proposal that's being presented to the Board. And
22 I've gone through this calculation here just to kind of get
23 -- for the working group before we had a meeting a couple
24 weeks ago, and since that time, the working group members
25 will notice that I've added the additional portion from
26 Huslia north up to Hughes to include all the controlled use
27 area. And basically our population estimate there under
28 number 1 is about 5,570 and that's a rough estimate.

29
30 Based on our current levels and the working group
31 recommendation harvest rate of seven and a half percent at
32 that population level, this would allow harvest of 418
33 moose. Calculating the number of permits that would be
34 available for the drawing permit then we'd see 418 minus
35 250 moose and the 250 moose is the amount that we felt was
36 necessary for the subsistence and this is based on our --
37 the RMA-32 the subsistence permit hunt which was about 180
38 plus an additional 85 that is determined from our door-to-
39 door subsistence surveys. And that's minus about 13 or 14,
40 the duplicate counting from our general harvest there. So
41 working group members will recognize that this has gone up
42 basically about 70 permits from the original subsistence
43 use that we talked about a couple of weeks ago. So this
44 will allow a harvest of 168 moose there.

45
46 Going down to step four then we have at the seven
47 and a half percent harvest rate, divided by the hunter
48 success rate that we estimate to be about 65 percent, this
49 will allow us 258 total permits. The Department -- the
50 working group recommendation was that these permits be

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1 available on an 80/20 split for residents and non-
2 residents, and this will give us 206 resident permits and
3 52 non-resident permits available. So just for comparison,
4 to show you where we're at, the 1999 level, you'll see down
5 there we had, in just the registration area, we had 207
6 permits for resident and 173 for non-residents, and this is
7 just in the registration portion of the controlled use
8 area. So the resident portion of that is comparable just
9 to that registration portion of it. But there is also
10 about 30 resident hunters that use the general permit so
11 that's down just almost right at 30 resident permits. And
12 then the non-resident portion is down about 150 permits.
13 So that's kind of where we're looking at as far as what
14 this drawing permit is going to get us there.

15
16 Another aspect of this, just to make sure it's
17 clear is that the proposal -- is we're expanding the permit
18 area. It used to be that it only ran from the lower
19 portion of the Koyukuk up to Huslia, now the reason we're
20 including these other numbers is because we're running the
21 drawing -- the permit area all the way up to include all
22 the controlled use area. So that's how those number are
23 figured out through that thing.

24
25 That's basically all I have.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Randy or
28 Glenn.

29
30 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

33
34 MR. REAKOFF: During this working group
35 process and setting these harvest guidelines and looking at
36 what harvest has been in recent history and noting that the
37 moose population has declined dramatically at an eight
38 percent harvest -- 8 to 9 percent harvest rate, I feel that
39 these harvest percentages, the seven and half percent is
40 actually -- is still fairly high for the kind of decline
41 that the moose population is incurring. So I feel that
42 seven and a half percent is kind of high, looking at the
43 numbers and with this kind of a year, this is the worst
44 kind of case scenario, is this deep snow year with the hard
45 crust. I feel that the Department should be more
46 conservative this year, you know, with what has been
47 occurring and with what the population has been declining
48 at and then we got this kind of a snow year. I'm out all
49 the time and talking to people, this hard firm crust has
50 set up -- the wolves are on top, they're -- moose can't get

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1 away from them. I feel that these percentages should be
2 adjusted even further downward.

3
4 At one point conservative was in the three to five
5 percent. And I think that conservancy should be in place
6 right now. I think the Department should reconsider these
7 percentages under these conditions. I just wanted the
8 advisory -- there may be other testimony, you know,
9 regarding this issue but I feel that seven and a half
10 percent is still pretty high, you know. Back here in the
11 plan from '92 to '95 the rate of harvest was eight to nine
12 percent, this seven and a half percent would be a half a
13 percentage of, you know, harvest rate. So I feel that
14 reducing the harvest to stay within the parameters of what
15 the productivity of that population is, you know, it's
16 showing that it's dropping. And I'm not sure that the cuts
17 that have been made in the numbers of moose to be killed
18 can compensate for what this here winter condition is right
19 now.

20
21 MR. ROGERS: I think your observations are
22 real good there, Jack. You know, these numbers that
23 Glenn's presented are, you know, based on the numbers the
24 working group agreed to and we're kind of in the middle
25 between a few of those population figures. The way it is
26 in this plan is that as the population is lower the harvest
27 percentage would go down. You know, that would be the
28 working group recommendation but I really don't think there
29 necessarily was the time to fully consider the actual
30 numbers that was going to come out of that.

31
32 You know, I think that there's some flexibility
33 still and that as Glenn sees how things play out, you know,
34 biologically this winter. What we do want to do is even
35 though that's the working group recommendation for
36 determining numbers of permits in this drawing hunt, in the
37 registration area, we still need to be consistent with the
38 population harvest objectives unitwide for 21(D) and 24.
39 And those do have some lower harvest numbers in them or a
40 range in there. So I think Glenn will need to consider
41 those numbers in the light of the population objectives and
42 those that the Board actually adopts in the next couple of
43 weeks. But I don't think that we're locked into those
44 numbers right now.

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: Well, it was -- Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

49
50 MR. REAKOFF: It was my observation that

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1 the guiding industry was a major factor in trying to uphold
2 those percentages, you know, because of bookings and so
3 forth. I feel that monetary value of the resource and the
4 health of the resource are two different things. The
5 subsistence use and the health of the resource have the
6 priority. And I feel that at this point, with this kind of
7 a winter, that the Department and the Board of Game should
8 be locked down into a conservative mode. We've already had
9 bad recruitments on the easy winters. On a year like this
10 I -- this is from me to you, from a moose calf five days
11 ago that the wolves had eaten half of it and left the rest
12 of it. Up there they're running on top of the snow, they
13 can kill them calves as easy anything. They're getting
14 pretty wasteful. There's going to be a lot of waste this
15 spring with the wolves. So I'm admonishing the Department
16 to reconsider what they present to the Board under these
17 percentages of harvest.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack.

20
21 MR. ROGERS: I think those are good
22 suggestions and I think it would be good to put those in
23 the written record, it would be helpful, too.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have a lottery system,
26 drawing system in proposal form?

27
28 MR. ROGERS: Yes, we do. This Proposal 30
29 that went to the Board of Game is to establish the drawing
30 system. And the way it is written and being proposed to
31 the Board, the working group agreed that the maximum level
32 of hunter participation in that Lower Koyukuk should be no
33 greater than that which occurred in the 1998 level. So
34 that's what the baseline level was in terms of
35 extrapolating the number of permits that occurred in the
36 permit area there plus the additional area that's
37 recommended to be, you know, included in the permit area.
38 The proposal to the Board of Game would authorize the
39 Department to give up to the number of permits that
40 occurred in 1998. But the numbers that Glenn has just
41 described cut that back below that based on the population
42 status right now. And, you know, there's certainly along
43 the lines of what Jack said, room to consider, whether that
44 -- those permit numbers we're talking about for the year
45 2000 are sufficiently cutting back or not.

46
47 You know, there will be a huge cutback in the
48 number of hunters. So I'm hopeful that that will make a
49 better experience for both the locals competing for
50 subsistence use and the non-locals who come in and want to

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1 have a high success rate and quality of hunt after the long
2 trip that they take. But, you know, this does cut back,
3 you know, non-residents, for example, would be less than
4 one-third of what occurred last year.

5
6 So this is really the core proposal to the Board of
7 Game to really change moose management in the Lower Koyukuk
8 so it is a proposal to go to a drawing hunt. There will be
9 a strict limit on the numbers of permits. No higher than
10 the '98 level but it, you know, the Department will issue
11 lower numbers based on data and considering recommendations
12 of the working group but not necessarily being completely
13 bound by that either.

14
15 Another point that, you know, I recall from the
16 Aniak meeting is there is concern that most of the Board
17 proposals that relate to moose management really are in the
18 lower river end and one thing we did add along the lines of
19 the discussion in Aniak was a strengthened statement of
20 management to indicate we need to really watch those upper
21 Koyukuk moose populations. Make sure that along the river
22 corridor where much of the hunting pressure is, along the
23 Dalton Highway Corridor, other key areas where airplane
24 access is allowed, we're closely watching those moose
25 populations. So that's highlighted. The version that will
26 be -- that I'm working on right now to present to the Board
27 of Game, I'm also adding in a few lines to indicate, we
28 need to watch Middle Yukon River use levels, too. Because
29 we have every potential for displacement of hunters out of
30 that key Koyukuk controlled use area and with many of these
31 folks already geared up for using boats to get here they're
32 very likely to look at other areas along the Middle Yukon
33 where they can use their existing set up. And so the
34 Department needs to be very watchful of that situation too.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: That is exactly the position
37 Micky Stickman and Benedict took, that if we -- the more we
38 restrict the Lower Koyukuk and Middle Koyukuk River, the
39 more hunters they expect in the Yukon, in their area. And
40 I don't know how to deal with that.

41
42 Are there any other proposals that deal directly
43 with the percentages and methods of cutting down sport
44 hunters and commercial guided outfits?

45
46 MR. ROGERS: Well, there's several of the
47 proposals that could have an affect on that. You know, one
48 of the proposals, as I mentioned earlier, is to shift the
49 subsistence season five days earlier. There's mixed
50 feelings as to whether that's going to end up being good or

00297

1 bad. Department is concerned that with that five day
2 earlier opening we could get non-local subsistence users
3 wanting to participate in that hunt. We're also concerned
4 that that being early in the year, it could result in
5 problems related to potential waste of meat and spoilage.
6 We really have to emphasize to hunters to be responsible
7 for that. The locals, you know, that have been involved in
8 the working group don't think that's a problem because, you
9 know, they're going to get their meat in and take care of
10 it within a day. You know, I guess in terms of proposals
11 that will specifically change use levels, the really key
12 one is the drawing hunt. There's other proposals related
13 to reauthorization of antlerless moose. Perhaps not
14 reauthorizing the taking of cow moose in the general hunt
15 will discourage some of those general hunters from wanting
16 to go there, you know, will cut down their options. But,
17 you know, it's hard to guess, you know, what indirect
18 effect some of those proposals will have.

19
20 I think we really need to rely on the drawing hunt
21 system there and carefully evaluating what number of
22 permits we can issue consistent with the biological
23 situation.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: You know, we discussed that
26 opening up the subsistence hunt five days earlier and
27 closing it five days earlier, that I thought there was a
28 clause there that that was designed mostly for the locals,
29 was there?

30
31 MR. ROGERS: Well, the intent of the
32 working group was to provide a period primarily for locals
33 to hunt without the congestion that's occurred during the
34 general season. The problem being, though, under State
35 law, we can't distinguish locals versus non-locals, which
36 again is why the Department has had, you know, heightened
37 concerns about the possibility of leaving cow taking open
38 under that subsistence hunt there because you could get a
39 lot of non-locals coming in and taking cows and increased
40 participation which, you know, these combined reasons are
41 why we will be recommending to the Board that we don't
42 allow taking of cows in either the subsistence or general
43 hunt but we do keep it open for the winter hunt so that
44 those locals that really need that resource will still have
45 that option.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I think that this has
48 been surfacing all throughout our meetings. Any more
49 questions for Randy?

50

00298

1 MR. COLLINS: Do you have -- what I don't
2 see in the model here is do you have estimates on what the
3 production, how many calves should you expect out of this
4 and what do you expect on predation rates because I noticed
5 that like wolves themselves have gone up 17 percent; how do
6 you factor that in or are there figures on estimates of how
7 much their harvest is? We've got the human harvest, what
8 about the other?

9
10 MR. STOUT: As Jack was talking about, part
11 of our estimate for this ability of human harvest is --
12 it's a complicated process that we go down. But basically
13 if we look at our recruitment at our yearlings, giving us a
14 baseline for what that would be, that's the basic element
15 that we're looking at.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: What is that? What do you
18 estimate for recruitment? What is the baseline?

19
20 MR. STOUT: Right now our yearlings, like
21 in Three-Day Slough, we're getting about six to seven
22 percent, that's right in the core area that controlled use
23 area. And we're seeing upwards of 12 percent in some of
24 the other trend count areas.

25
26 MR. COLLINS: And then you're losing 60
27 percent of those to predation?

28
29 MR. STOUT: About 65 plus percent we would
30 estimate is what we're losing to predation based on a '91
31 study.

32
33 MR. COLLINS: What about the predation
34 through the year, though, what does that -- the amount of
35 wolves present and the bears present, what does -- I guess
36 wolves would be the year-round, what do they take?

37
38 MR. STOUT: Well, that's -- from that
39 estimate, that's based on the calves that are -- calf
40 mortality study that was done, approximately 65 percent of
41 those at that time in '91 being lost.

42
43 MR. COLLINS: Well, what about the adults
44 is what I'm thinking of, especially the wolf, like bad
45 winter and so on, do you figure what percentage they're
46 going to take out of that?

47
48 MR. STOUT: Well, it basically ends up
49 being a tradeoff where we're looking at the recruitment
50 rate, which is the yearlings, what's coming back into the

00299

1 population would be an increase in the population
2 potentially and that tradeoff would be allowable harvest.
3 That's compared to that.

4
5 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Lincoln, you had a comment.

8
9 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, I have a question.
10 You were talking about being able to make changes in your
11 regulations or closure or whatever, how fast and easy are
12 those changes and can you make changes to prevent a
13 disaster from happening? How flexible is your program?

14
15 MR. ROGERS: Well, I guess the number 1
16 situation we have is the drawing hunt where we will have
17 the Department flexibility to reduce numbers of permits on
18 an annual basis. And so we will, you know, as we prepare
19 in the spring to put out the permit supplements and the
20 regulations, Glenn will calculate that up and so we can
21 adjust that on an annual basis. If we get to a situation
22 where.....

23
24 MR. L. TRITT: No, my concern is what Jack
25 was talking about earlier, is that, this different winter,
26 you know, you might have to make some emergency changes in
27 your plan.

28
29 MR. ROGERS: Well, one of the things that's
30 written into the plan is to emphasize the Department's
31 emergency closure authority to shut it all down and to
32 emphasize that if we need to biologically that we will do
33 that. So that's available at any time. We can adjust
34 permit numbers on an annual basis. If we get to a
35 situation where it is becoming clear that the resource
36 can't maintain the level of general hunting opportunity
37 that's provided for initially in the plan, it outlines that
38 first what we would want to do is further cut back the non-
39 resident hunting opportunity. The next step will be to cut
40 back all general hunting opportunity. Potentially, if
41 predation continues like it looks like it is right now and
42 we have severe weather, we recognize that we could end up
43 in a Tier II situation quicker than anybody would like to
44 guess. If we get to that point we will have to go to the
45 Board of Game to request some changes. Some of those are
46 beyond the discretionary authority of the Department and
47 we'd have to go through advisory committees, Board of Game,
48 public review, but ultimately if it gets to the point where
49 that's all the moose resource can support, the Board's
50 required, by law, to act on that.

00300

1 MR. L. TRITT: That was my concern if you
2 have to make emergency changes, whether you have to go
3 through all kinds of departments and people, you know, how
4 effective is that going to be?

5
6 MR. ROGERS: Well, we have that emergency
7 closure authority but if significant changes are needed, we
8 will need a public process but in the meantime we would
9 have to ensure that the overall harvest is not excessive
10 and we'd have to close down the hunts if Glenn has
11 biological information that indicates that's necessary.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, for all of our
14 information, the subsistence hunt would be the last to
15 close, that will be protected today, correct?

16
17 MR. ROGERS: That's correct.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any more
20 questions because I would like to go into the proposal, on
21 what, the lottery?

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I got one....

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF:under the Koyukuk River
28 Advisory Committee meeting that we had in Bettles last
29 week, presentation was made regarding the season move
30 forward five days and the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
31 voted to -- against that proposal. That they felt that
32 that hunt would be little used. And they felt that that --
33 because it was warm weather and people wouldn't use that
34 early extension so they felt that that was an unnecessary
35 provision. I just wanted to bring that out.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack.

38
39 MR. ROGERS: Yes, and Jack, that's a good
40 example of where we've got different views being presented
41 by the working group, Middle Yukon, Koyukuk River,
42 Department has concerns, which we've talked about. And
43 that's why we need to see what really comes out of the
44 Board of Game meeting and it may or may not be necessary.
45 You know, you guys may want to act on that proposal right
46 now in terms of how you'd like to see it dealt with in the
47 Federal regs. We'll have to see what happens to see then
48 what it takes to make things consistent.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been my experience that

00301

1 from meeting to meeting we jump forward, we jump back and
2 it's so muddled that it's probably best to just leave it
3 alone as is. Because every meeting we hold we have
4 different representatives who present different views and I
5 don't know how to handle that. I really don't. Because I
6 thought we were taking a step in the right direction by
7 opening this subsistence season five days earlier and that
8 didn't go. I thought we were taking the right step in
9 closing the fall cow harvest and apparently that won't go
10 at this time because we are revisiting one of our own
11 proposals.

12
13 Go ahead, Randy.

14
15 MR. ROGERS: Well, you know, I think that
16 it's pretty clear everyone's unanimous on closing the fall
17 cow harvest for the general hunt. Koyukuk River and the
18 Department will both recommend closing it in the
19 subsistence hunt, too. The working group was very close to
20 agreeing to that and it may be likely that the Board will
21 go ahead to close those. But I don't necessarily look at
22 it we've been taking jumps backwards. The folks on the
23 working group, you know, we've had a relatively few number
24 of people that have been willing to try and do the best we
25 can to represent their advisory committees and councils and
26 come up with compromises based on what they're hearing from
27 the other members and going along with some things that
28 maybe they don't completely like but they can live with.

29
30 The process was designed, specifically, so that
31 advisory committees would have an opportunity to meet with
32 all of their representatives from each and every local
33 community that they serve and have a chance to consider
34 these working group proposals and go on record to the Board
35 as to whether they think that's good for their area or not.
36 And so all we're really seeing is a little bit more
37 specific attention to those proposals based on people from
38 that particular area and how it would apply there. And so
39 they're throwing their comments in and it's completely
40 possible that the Board could make some decisions to say go
41 along with what Middle Yukon Advisory Committee said for
42 the lower river and go along with what Koyukuk River said
43 in the upper river, to be as responsive as possible to
44 those different committees.

45
46 But I think, let's keep in mind, that we do have
47 agreement among both of those committees as well as all the
48 working group about this significant proposal to go to a
49 drawing system. There really is going to cut back level of
50 hunting substantially there. You know, we're still open to

00302

1 the discussions and points that Jack raised and I really do
2 think it's important for this committee and individuals to
3 go on record with the Board to say what you think the
4 conditions are that need to influence permit numbers for
5 this year. But the fact is that we've got, you know,
6 pretty broad support on the core proposal of the plan and
7 we're optimistic that the Board will adopt it. Not that we
8 haven't heard differing views on that and there will be
9 committees or individuals that don't think a registration
10 hunt is necessary.

11
12 For some of the folks from non-local areas that
13 want to maintain opportunities, this concern that we hear
14 about displacement of hunters from the Koyukuk River to the
15 Middle Yukon or upper river is exactly what working group
16 member Greg Mehichuk has said on behalf of Fairbanks
17 Advisory Committee, if we restrict hunting there these
18 hunters are all going somewhere. So, you know, we've all
19 got to wrestle with this somewhere in the state, we have to
20 do the best we can for the Koyukuk while we have the
21 opportunity. We need to highlight and be aware of these
22 other potential ramifications, be ready to deal with them.

23
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy. If we
26 have no further comments I would like to go into your
27 proposals, how many do we have?

28
29 MR. ROGERS: There's seven proposals that
30 will go to the Board of Game. And there will be some
31 amended proposals submitted, too, based on some final
32 recommendations of the working group. It gets reasonably
33 complex to get through the whole idea of each proposal and
34 each potential amended proposal.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: So.....

37
38 MR. ROGERS: I don't know how you guys want
39 to deal with this, we can just start going. Do you have
40 copies, all of you?

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we have copies.

43
44 MR. ROGERS: Then we should just go through
45 them in the order that they appear in the book if that's
46 what works best for you?

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: It covers Western Interior
49 so we would like you to cover them briefly.

50

00303

1 MR. ROGERS: Glenn's probably best suited
2 to do this if you'd like, you know, we can both share some
3 of the comments.

4
5 MR. STOUT: Okay, the first one is Proposal
6 No. 5 and the proposal was to extend the general hunt
7 season by two weeks and increase the bag limit to one bear
8 every year in Units 21(D) and 24. And the first thing I'll
9 mention here is at the end of each one of the proposals
10 that was submitted by the working group, there's a note
11 that.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Vince you want to
14 interject?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Glenn
17 probably doesn't know of your action yesterday to support
18 all bear proposals that increase opportunity to harvest
19 bears while also increasing, you know, reducing their
20 numbers, so they've taken up in a large process one letter,
21 all the proposals dealing with brown bear. So I don't know
22 if you want him to continue on that, I'm sorry for
23 interrupting but I don't know if you want him to continue.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, I think we covered the
26 bear proposals.

27
28 MR. STOUT: Okay.

29
30 MR. ROGERS: The one note that I'll throw
31 in on that that in order to make this consistent we will
32 submit a revised proposal to the Board to also extend the
33 subsistence season so we don't have a general season that's
34 longer than the subsistence. But other than that, it will
35 go the same.

36
37 MR. STOUT: At the end of all the working
38 group proposals there's a note that kind of attaches to
39 each one of them and discusses each one of the aspect of
40 these different proposals. So you can look at that and it
41 will give you an idea of all the working group proposals as
42 a package, how they look like.

43
44 The next proposal is Proposal No. 27 which is to
45 change the fall subsistence season dates for the
46 registration hunt to begin on August 27th. And this
47 proposal is being amended and resubmitted to reflect the
48 working groups original intention that the season also
49 would go down in the regulations as ending on September
50 20th and this is the proposal that we talked about already

00304

1 as far as that shift five days earlier.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think we're at the
4 understanding that we don't know which way it will go so go
5 on.

6

7 MR. ROGERS: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Randy.

10

11 MR. ROGERS: If members of the Council do
12 have any specific opinion or position on that shifting of
13 the subsistence season, I think that would be worth having
14 on record. Because there are different views that will be
15 presented on that. The Board could go either way. So if
16 you guys want the Board to go one way or the other, feel
17 free to let us know.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just offhand, do you have
20 any feelings on this Council members? Vince.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I would also
23 encourage you to comment on that for one reason I'm getting
24 indications from the discussion here that the State might
25 be submitting a special action after the Board of Game on
26 this if the Board of Game passes that; is that fair to say?
27 You have repeatedly said that you would like the seasons to
28 align. Are you intimating that they would align this
29 coming season or the following year because if you are
30 going to go ahead with that then this Council may want to
31 now take up this issue and let it be known where they stand
32 on it. So you are indicating that you might go to a
33 special action after the Board of Game?

34

35 MR. STOUT: I guess I'm not that familiar
36 with special actions. But what we would like to do is
37 following the Board of game, work with you folks to align
38 them as quickly as possible, ideally the 2000 season.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So everyone's clear on
41 that, a special action is similar to an emergency order and
42 the fact that it only affects that year, that cycle. So it
43 would be only that year that it would be in effect and the
44 only way you could do that is through a special action.
45 And you took -- well, some of you were here when Eastern
46 Interior addressed the special action in 25(C) caribou.
47 Generally we only consult with the Chair, in effect, that
48 Council members -- but since you were meeting we took
49 advantage of it. So if this special action went forward
50 which would probably be March, April something like that,

00305

1 maybe May, we would only be consulting with, you know, a
2 couple of you, not all. Unless you desired to have a full-
3 blown meeting and then we'd have to work on it.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

6
7 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I feel that it
8 would be warranted to have a special action if the Game
9 Board passed this Proposal 27, then the Federal -- the
10 subsistence users should be able to have a season alignment
11 that same year if possible.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you get that?

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: I understood what you're
16 saying, Jack, that you would support having a special
17 action. Does that indicate that the Council would support
18 changing the seasons or just to have a discussion on it?

19
20 MR. REAKOFF: I would support the season
21 change to align with the State season.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: All right.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: That would save some.....

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: Headaches.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM:some small stuff from
30 appearing on our agenda. I think both the Federal
31 Subsistence Board and the State Board should just
32 automatically align everything anyway, whether it be one
33 year or permanent. We've been trying to do that anyway
34 unless there's special issues and special areas.

35
36 Vince.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I just caution you on
39 that because the Board does like alignment but it likes
40 alignment that supports the subsistence opportunity and
41 support from the Regional Council. I think the Board would
42 be hesitant, and there are other people here that can
43 correct me, would be hesitant to automatically make
44 alignment proposals because of the affect that it might
45 have on subsistence opportunities. Again, the discussion
46 of displacement, et cetera, et cetera, so I know what
47 you're saying Ron, but the Board, I think would be more
48 comfortable that that alignment initiative come up through
49 the Councils and not be automatic between the Boards. And
50 if others want to comment on it, that's my interpretation

00306

1 of the Board's actions over time.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more comments or
4 questions from the Council. Go ahead Robert, brief.

5

6 MR. NICK: I have a brief comment.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Use the mic, please.

9

10 MR. NICK: The reason Councils and the
11 Federal Board have desires to align the Federal regs with
12 State regulations and then process of allowing subsistence
13 to occur when numbers are down and my caution here in the
14 efforts of aligning both State and Federal regulations is
15 under the Federal oversight, subsistence gets priority, but
16 under the State oversight all users seem to get weighted
17 into the decisions. So in regulations for certain species
18 of game, if there's more flexibility or more opportunity
19 for subsistence use by villagers such as those in the
20 Yukon-Koyukuk, to me it would be more advantageous to allow
21 implementation of Title VIII, the subsistence priority to
22 try to persuade the State Board of Game to amend -- change
23 their regulations to be in more parity or with the Federal
24 regs. So I just want to make that comment.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any comments
29 from the Council. Any public comments. Like Randy says,
30 Jack or I attended most of these meetings. And both the
31 guiding section, the advisory council sections, to me, they
32 seem to almost bend over backwards to try to meet our
33 subsistence needs and this is probably the last time you
34 see the Koyukuk River Working Moose Hunters Group unless we
35 ask them to be funded for further sessions.

36

37 But in every meeting subsistence has taken the
38 forefront and I commend the working group for this. The
39 only ones that didn't appear before us were the
40 transporters, the illegal guides and all those other people
41 which we cannot pin down. We do have a John law along with
42 the wanton waste law being introduced down in Juneau, those
43 issues will come up later but it seems to me that we have
44 been protecting subsistence as much as we legally can. We
45 have emergency closures from both the Feds and the State.
46 And like I stated before, subsistence would be the last
47 thing to be shut down.

48

49 Any further comments. What other proposals do you
50 want -- if we don't I would just like to go into the main

00307

1 one on the lottery system.

2

3 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, we'd recommend doing
4 that and that's the next one that comes up so that's really
5 the key one.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that's a key one
8 that will alleviate a lot of fears if this -- if this
9 proposal is successful and if -- one question I have for
10 you, all the gist I got before is that we can put this
11 action into place this coming fall?

12

13 MR. ROGERS: Yes.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Please
16 mention that again in covering this proposal. What
17 proposal is this?

18

19 MR. STOUT: The next one is Proposal No.
20 30. And there's several different aspects to Proposal No.
21 30 that I'll try and cover. First of all the essential
22 part of it is to establish a drawing hunt in place of the
23 current general registration permit hunt. And the key
24 distinction in there is that the drawing hunt would provide
25 annually a limited number of general permits for the
26 controlled use area. The other aspect of it of this
27 proposal is to expand the area where the permits apply
28 within the controlled use area. Currently the permit area
29 only goes up to Huslia, the controlled use area goes clear
30 up to Hughes. Well, this would expand that permit area all
31 the way up to Hughes.

32

33 Also this proposal requests to eliminate the antler
34 restriction in the general drawing hunt and this is one
35 aspect of it that I covered in that analysis talking about
36 how we would expect an increased harvest rate, therefore,
37 using that calculation we went with that increased harvest
38 rate. IT does decrease the number of permits that would be
39 allowable because the target here is not number of hunters
40 but it's the number of moose that is allowable to be
41 harvested.

42

43 So looking at the language here in the regulation,
44 you can see that it states in there the underlying portion
45 says for the resident portion of the hunt would allow up to
46 320 permits and the non-resident hunters would allow up to
47 80 permits. And these are the maximum levels based on the
48 1998 use which was determined to be what the working group
49 felt was a comfortable level that they could -- the maximum
50 level they felt comfortable with.

00308

1 Another -- different parts of the proposal here
2 talks about the --trying to implement the drawing permit 12
3 months in advance. Having a party draw of up to four
4 hunters. And also there's discussion here as far as the
5 implementation of how the treatment of the trophy value of
6 the antlers that Randy discussed earlier. And our hopes is
7 that if we can have basically a voluntary compliance of
8 that destruction of trophy value in the field to where a
9 hunter, at the site of the kill would have to saw those
10 antlers off through the beam while they're in the field and
11 salvage the head, not just out of the controlled use area
12 but to the point of processing like all the other meat.
13

14 So those are the basic elements of that. And just
15 to cover that one more time, basically compared to the 1999
16 levels where we had about 730 permits for that total area,
17 we're looking at closer to 550 permits so it's a pretty
18 substantial decline.
19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's total permits?
21

22 MR. STOUT: That's total number of hunters
23 that would be in the area, that's kind of the direction
24 we're going.
25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: And this number includes all
27 local residents?
28

29 MR. STOUT: Well, that's mostly non-local
30 and non-residents, the decline.
31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
33

34 MR. STOUT: What we did, is that, 250
35 level, the number of moose hunted, that's what we
36 considered to be both the subsistence permit users,
37 unreported, that we got through our subsistence surveys and
38 then general harvest tickets.
39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Any
41 questions, comments, Council?
42

43 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.
44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Jack.
46

47 MR. REAKOFF: This is the key to the whole
48 issue there on the Koyukuk, is to control the expanding
49 non-local harvest. And I am real happy to see that this
50 control is going to be hopefully implemented by the Board.

00309

1 This is the main way to cap this expanding hunt by the non-
2 local people. The resource is starting to show that it
3 can't endure anymore and this is the way it can stay within
4 the parameters of what the population can endure. So I'm
5 happy to see this proposal.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any
8 further comments. Vince, do you think a letter or a
9 resolution from this Council would help get this in place
10 or is it legal or.....

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Are you getting on commenting
13 on this Proposal 30 is what you're getting at?

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, you -- you don't have
18 the same standing that you have in front of the Federal
19 Board as any group you can comment. The State process is
20 known as being one of the most public processes in the
21 country, so you, yes, you can. We could do it either
22 through motion, resolution, however you want to deal with
23 that. Obviously I think the Staff will be carrying this
24 information to the Board of Game also. But, yes, you know,
25 they'll take it in. We just would have to do it
26 immediately because they're already gearing up for their
27 meeting.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

30
31 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to make a motion to
32 endorse Proposal 30 but under the Proposal 30 analysis, I
33 would like to see the Department -- I would like this
34 Council to be on record as cautioning the Department with
35 this seven and a half percent harvest level and I would
36 like the Board to realize that a conservative percentage of
37 harvest at this time with these snow conditions and this
38 kind of recruitment that we've had in the last few years is
39 warranted and that three to five percent, I feel, five
40 percent maximum right now is warranted. And I would like
41 that to be on record from this Council to the Board of
42 Game.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: So could you repeat your
45 motion now and thrown in that five percent thing, too.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to make a motion
48 to endorse Proposal 30 to the Game Board.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Amending.

00310

1 MR. REAKOFF:with an amendment that
2 the five percent harvest level with these snow conditions
3 and these recruitment levels for the past two years is
4 excessive and that a maximum of five percent at this time
5 would be warranted.

6
7 MR. STICKMAN: I second the motion.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved and seconded
10 by Micky Stickman. Any further discussion, Western
11 Interior. Sam.

12
13 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman, a few years ago
14 when we had a Koyukuk River Advisory Committee meeting at
15 Hughes, I remember we voted on something about five
16 percent.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
19 discussion. If not, all in favor of the motion signify by
20 saying aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

25
26 (No opposing votes)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Do you
29 understand the gist of this endorsement, that we're just
30 requesting it back down to five percent.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was there any other key
35 points, any key proposals that you had?

36
37 MR. STOUT: Two more proposals here. Let's
38 see Proposal 63 and 72 were ones that were submitted by the
39 Moose Hunters Working Group and they were the
40 reauthorization of the antlerless moose seasons. And these
41 are the ones that we talked about that the Department is
42 going to be submitting an amended proposal rather than just
43 reauthorizing cow moose seasons for just the subsistence
44 and the winter seasons, we have an amended proposal
45 submitted to reauthorize cow seasons for the winter seasons
46 only. And that's the basic difference there. This is kind
47 of a confusing process that we got through but basically
48 the State is required to reauthorize our antlerless moose
49 seasons annually.

50

00311

1 This proposal, essentially, reauthorizes but at the
2 same time does not reauthorize the general permit hunt
3 within the controlled use area, that's how this is worded.
4 But the State proposal, the amended proposal is a little
5 different.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: So both of these proposals
8 would then delete the five day cow moose hunt in the fall,
9 general hunt?

10
11 MR. STOUT: The way it had worked in the
12 controlled use area, it was for the entire season. The cow
13 moose was for the entire season, for the general, RM-830
14 hunt. And this proposal here would eliminate that portion
15 of it. Because it's in a controlled use area and it's a
16 permit hunt, the Department has the discretionary authority
17 to eliminate that aspect of the hunt. So the language is
18 still in there but the Department was directed by the
19 working group to use its discretionary authority to close
20 that at this time.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: So when you mention RM-830
23 that's a general hunt but not the RM-832 subsistence, so is
24 that -- the cow moose season would still be in effect?

25
26 MR. STOUT: Under this proposal that's what
27 the working group had submitted and that's one that Randy
28 had talked about. All but one member of it felt that that
29 was necessary and so we didn't have a consensus. Since
30 that time, and we talked about this amended proposal from
31 the Department, the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee, once
32 again, wanted to stay with this current proposal, the
33 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee went with the amended
34 proposal to close the fall -- all fall cow harvest.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
37 Vince.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, in my absence
40 yesterday you did take up Proposal 47 which deals with
41 antlerless moose.

42
43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: 47 and 48.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Right. So I don't know if
46 you want to revisit that. You tabled it until you wanted
47 to hear more information and Board of Game action. So I
48 don't know if you want to -- for 21(D), so I don't know if
49 you want to revisit that now or what you want to do.

50

00312

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Maybe we'll take care of
2 both things at once then. I know George Yaska out of
3 Huslia Tribal Council wanted to revisit Proposal 48 and
4 with the difference between -- the Middle Yukon and Koyukuk
5 River taking two stances, I think it is worth revisiting.
6 So is it all right with the Council if I bring George Yaska
7 up or should we just take a moment to -- take action right
8 now to ask for revisiting?

9
10 MR. REAKOFF: Let's have George come up.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Should we put a motion on
13 the floor to revisit 48 first.

14
15 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: So moved.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion on the
24 floor to revisit Proposal 48. At this time I would like to
25 recognize George Yaska. There is a seat along side Fritz.

26
27 All those in favor of revisiting 48 signify by
28 saying aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Motion carries. George,
37 your concerns from yesterday, go ahead and bring them out
38 because we do have Randy and Glenn Stout here.

39
40 MR. YASKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
41 members of the Council. My name is George Yaska,
42 representing the Huslia Tribal Council.

43
44 And I recognize the difficulty of your task. I can
45 speak fairly knowledgeably on our area and the resources
46 around Huslia from the point where the Zane Hills meets the
47 Koyukuk River at Hogatza River down to Three-Day Slough. I
48 know and try to make myself familiar with the rest of the
49 river, both around Koyukuk and then above Huslia around
50 Hughes but I don't know much about it. So I recognize the

00313

1 task that you have is fairly substantial and a highly
2 responsible position.

3
4 And then, two, it's compounded by the fact that we
5 all haven't been working together in concert jointly
6 developing Federal and State proposals together over time.
7 Here you have a proposal in front of this Regional Council
8 and you're expected to act on it before the Board of Game
9 meeting next week. So some tough choices. I appreciate
10 the efforts of the Department to work on this issue. We've
11 been asking for it for many years and I think we're working
12 towards it. I think when we have a group made up of equal
13 representatives from the Federal and State government and
14 others such as the tribes, that we can work together in
15 concert and then come to you without -- in making those
16 difficult choices before we actually get here; make your
17 job and task quite a bit easier. So I look forward to the
18 Department making that -- I guess I'll call it an offer,
19 that hopefully we'll see a different template in the future
20 of working together.

21
22 I did attempt to work with the working group. I
23 got in too late, though, and the working group was pretty
24 much done by the time that I got involved. And they point
25 out all the problems of the area, I think, fairly
26 effectively. The only point where we aren't sure are the
27 numbers of harvest and the number of moose, particularly by
28 individual subunits within GMU 24. I think that if we had
29 that number then I'd be far more comfortable in endorsing
30 the drawing permit system and a reduction in cow moose
31 season.

32
33 For our purposes, at the tribal council, we haven't
34 been able to pinpoint good numbers to that, whether it's
35 three to five percent or seven to nine percent of harvest.
36 It hasn't been translated well enough for our purposes in
37 order to testify next week at the Board of Game. So we're
38 opting for the more conservative approach on the lottery
39 proposal, on the drawing proposal of three to five percent.

40
41 I think that we will still remain in opposition to
42 the reduction in cow moose season in the fall time. I can
43 certainly see the point, though, of the Department's
44 concern and we have to recognize that. At this late
45 stage, though, I don't have the authority to reverse our
46 position. It's always been our position that we make some
47 cuts, difficult cuts, I'm sure, for sport and commercial
48 hunting first before we make cuts to our subsistence
49 season.

50

00314

1 So I'm in a personal quandary there. You know, I
2 want to work with the resource and demonstrate our level of
3 concern by making our cuts. But I don't see the cuts that
4 are coming necessary, I don't see those recommendations
5 coming for the sport and commercial hunt. If they're going
6 to remain at eight percent or seven percent, then I think
7 our cuts in subsistence will be too high and the cuts on
8 sport and commercial will be too low. So it's hard to make
9 a tradeoff here and it's hard to make a recommendation.

10
11 I think that the Council would be happy to see my
12 back off on our initial recommendation of opposing the
13 deletion of the cow moose season, I think they'd be happy
14 to see me stand back from that and let that process happen
15 and allow the deletion to occur, we won't hunt cow moose in
16 the fall time. But we do see need to see a strong
17 recommendation of three to five percent in the lottery
18 drawing system.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that
21 clarification, George. And I appreciate your attendance
22 here. I know the position you're in because it seems like
23 every time we get a representative out of Huslia it's
24 somebody out of new, too, and I will formally invite you to
25 our fall meeting that we expect to hold in Nulato.

26
27 Randy, do you have any answer or anything that can
28 help George on this, trying to explain that the subsistence
29 harvest wouldn't be cut down?

30
31 MR. ROGERS: Well, I'll just comment
32 briefly. And I guess I can understand the perspective and
33 we've heard it in the working group that it's a big jump to
34 all of a sudden go from wide open cow seasons for everybody
35 to all of a sudden cutting it out completely including the
36 fall subsistence hunt and that's why we didn't have
37 agreement on the working group.

38
39 So I think, you know, there's room for different
40 opinions there and I think that if the Council has its own
41 opinion it would be valuable to provide that to the Boar of
42 Game. We'll see how that falls and then we're going to be
43 watching to see what kind of subsistence harvest takes
44 place and if we do have the five day earlier opening, if we
45 do allow cows to be harvested in the subsistence hunt,
46 we're going to have to watch that very carefully. I think
47 it's also good that you guys go on record expressing your
48 views on what you think a sustainable harvest level is or
49 what kind of permit numbers we should be looking at in
50 terms of restricting the general hunt. And, you know, what

00315

1 we're not talking about, though, is other than the
2 potential to cut back the cow harvest during the fall,
3 we're not talking about cutting back overall subsistence.
4 But that is, you know, indirectly a cutback in subsistence.

5
6 So, you know, I guess I'd say I appreciate the
7 comments of Mr. Yaska and those are considerations that the
8 Board should take into account and decide if you feel that
9 you need to make a statement on the cow harvest themselves
10 and you've already made a statement on your recommended,
11 you know, conservative approach to seeing overall harvest
12 levels which then once the overall harvest level is set,
13 we're going to take the number of subsistence permits as
14 baselined, based on consistent data we have for how many --
15 what the need for subsistence moose is. So that gets
16 subtracted from the total number to start with so it really
17 becomes a question of how many permits we issue for the
18 general hunt.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy. I would
21 like George to restate his stand because we do have
22 Proposal 48 in front of us yet.

23
24 MR. YASKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I
25 wanted to also say, too, that we're fairly lucky, we're
26 pretty fortunate in Huslia. Our carrying capacity is high
27 for moose. We have two areas near the coast that also have
28 moose but their carrying capacity is low. So we get their
29 excess moose, so to speak, coming into our area, migrating
30 into our area. That area can only hold so much moose over
31 near Buckland and the Seward Peninsula and up around the
32 Kobuk River before their moose pretty much has to seek new
33 country. So we get those moose. We haven't had much snow
34 in the last four years so pretty good conditions for moose.
35 We have a strong hunting season for predators, for black
36 bear and brown bear and wolves. We've taken, for instance,
37 30 wolves in the last month. But still we're doing
38 something wrong and our moose population is declining
39 precipitously.

40
41 So we still have to make reductions to, substantial
42 reductions, in my mind, to the sport and commercial
43 harvest.

44
45 And on a particular point, on RM-832 subsistence
46 registration permit system, that demonstrates that we've
47 registered for 18 moose. And I think we wouldn't be
48 participating in the drawing system we'd be participating
49 more in the subsistence registration system so our numbers
50 would climb from 18 to -- well, a much higher number than

00316

1 18. So that has to be reflected in what's allowed then in
2 the general
3 lottery system.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Do you have
6 anything?

7
8 MR. ROGERS: Well, I would just add,
9 Glenn's ready to add the same thing, but in his figures
10 here, he did go ahead and add in the household subsistence
11 data for the take of moose so that hopefully his numbers
12 there do include a more accurate reflection of Huslia's
13 harvest. So that's added on to just the permit cards
14 themselves. So that makes it a bit more accurate anyhow.

15
16 MR. YASKA: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead.

19
20 MR. YASKA: One last comment. Our
21 subsistence harvest has remained static for a number of
22 years, perhaps two decades. It hasn't changed much.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. These numbers are
25 reflected and brought forth in every one of our meetings
26 and it is reflected in every one of our proposals. And our
27 annual harvest for the whole Koyukuk is being monitored
28 closely from household to household survey. We do have a
29 letter of support for that continued survey because that's
30 the only tool that we have to guarantee our harvest
31 numbers. And as far as that number goes, that will remain
32 pretty solid because like George said, our harvest numbers
33 have been the same about the last 20 or 30 years.

34
35 MR. ROGERS: That's absolutely correct.
36 The big wild card that the working groups dealt with, the
37 Department, this Council and the Board is projecting the
38 non-local subsistence use. That's what we just aren't sure
39 of and so taking the restrictions on the general hunt, the
40 changes in the subsistence hunt, it's very difficult to
41 project exactly how many non-local subsistence hunters we
42 might result with in the coming season. We're hopeful that
43 this combination will successfully deal with reducing
44 overall hunting pressure in the Koyukuk, which is really
45 the bottom line in protecting the moose resource, as Jack
46 has pointed out so well.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Ray.

49
50 MR. COLLINS: Is there any way you could

00317

1 limit -- let's say if somebody applies for that general and
2 they don't get a permit, in order words, under the permit
3 system, if they're local they can still come back and hunt
4 under the local, can't they? And I'm wondering what it
5 would do if -- if they apply for that then they can't come
6 back and claim their local subsistence but there's probably
7 no way of doing that.

8
9 MR. ROGERS: No, unfortunately there isn't.
10 We have a provision in there that's consistent with State
11 law that if you do get a general permit, then you are not
12 eligible for a subsistence one but that's the best we could
13 do along those lines.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, a couple of
18 things. One, we may need a break. Two.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Not yet.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS:would be that you do
23 have -- you reconsidered 48, so I don't know if you want to
24 formally do that and then what do you want to do with your
25 deferral on 47?

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm not looking for a break
28 at this time. We've got that 48 plus a few more questions
29 to handle. George, your final stand on that. You know, we
30 supported Proposal 48 which did away with the fall cow
31 moose season, what's your stand right now, because Jack
32 took the stand that your representatives took at Bettles;
33 do you have a stand one way or the other at this time?

34
35 MR. YASKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'll
36 have to stand in opposition again to deleting the cow moose
37 season and that's just it.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks again for your
40 participation. What's the pleasure of the Board, you know,
41 we tabled 47; does anyone have any feelings one way or the
42 other on Proposal 48?

43
44 Go ahead, Jack.

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: I just have to speak from my
47 gut from what I've listened to Sidney Huntington in
48 meetings stating that, you know, when the moose are in
49 trouble you protect the mothers and the babies. That's
50 what I heard in meetings. I've been on this Council and

00318

1 Sidney Huntington said that when the moose are in trouble
2 you have to protect the mothers and the babies. And
3 there's a winter cow season, you know, and the fall time
4 it's easy to get bulls, there's bulls to be had. I have to
5 feel that the local people would be more protected by
6 adopting a season for the winter and saving the cows for
7 when people need fat moose.

8

9 That's just the way I think right now.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: do you have a motion one way
12 or another?

13

14 MR. REAKOFF: I think that maybe we ought
15 to just vote again on Proposal 48.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: What if we support that if
18 they go with the five percent harvest level, tie the two
19 together so there is a reduction in the number of permits?

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Well, that wasn't -- that
22 sends mixed signals.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh, yeah.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, okay.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. We're dealing strictly
31 with 48. Do I have a motion one way or the other? We
32 tabled 47 simply because our residents and advisory council
33 members wanted to protect the fall subsistence hunt. We
34 went by our representative's viewpoints and stance from the
35 Koyukuk River Advisory Council meeting and we adopted the
36 deletion of that fall cow harvest. We're in direct
37 conflict on both of these proposals so one way or another
38 we'll have to take action.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
41 bring this reconsideration of 48 to vote. Call for the
42 question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack for
45 straightening us out. All in favor of reconsidering
46 Proposal 48 signify by saying aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

00319

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Reconsideration is before us
4 so that would then give us freedom to introduce a new
5 motion. Do we have a parliamentarian in here, so we
6 brought it back.....

7

8 MR. COLLINS: The motion was to adopt,
9 wasn't it?

10

11 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: The original motion is before
14 us.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Ida.

17

18 MR. COLLINS: The original motion is before
19 us, the motion to adopt.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: So that's what we would be
24 voting on.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's where I'm
27 concerned.

28

29 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, Ida
30 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. Yesterday you
31 adopted 48 so you might want to look at the language. The
32 language was to eliminate the antlerless hunt and this
33 morning you voted to reconsider your decision on 48. So
34 now the proposal, No. 48 as in your text is before you. If
35 you want to amend any of the language in there this is the
36 time to amend it.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. What is the
39 pleasure of the Council. Do we have to act all over again?

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: No.

42

43 MR. COLLINS: No.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

46

47 MS. HILDEBRAND: If you want to re --
48 excuse me, this is Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee
49 member. If you want to reaffirm your decision from
50 yesterday which was to adopt the elimination of the cow

00320

1 season or the antlerless season then you would just move to
2 reaffirm your decision from yesterday to adopt the
3 proposal.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, that's what I'm
6 looking for and that's what I thought I was looking for. I
7 know I was looking for something. Is that clear with the
8 Council members?

9
10 So a motion would be in order to reaffirm our
11 position that we took yesterday.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: I so move.

14
15 MR. DEACON: Second.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved by Ray
18 Collins, seconded by Henry Deacon that we reaffirm our
19 position that we took yesterday by deleting the fall cow
20 season and the general hunt. Is that clear with all of our
21 Council members?

22
23 Okay, if it's clear with all of our Council
24 members, the Chair will -- all those in favor signify by
25 saying aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those opposed same sign.

30
31 MR. STICKMAN: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Neither side seems to have
34 it, Vince, call a roll call vote.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Sam
37 Henry.

38
39 MR. HENRY: For.....

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: That would be yes?

42
43 MR. HENRY: Could I ask for clarification
44 again?

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: A yes vote will reaffirm our
47 position yesterday and that would pretty much deletes the
48 fall cow season in the Koyukuk controlled use area.

49
50 MR. REAKOFF: But retains the winter hunt.

00321

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: But it still retains the
2 winter hunt, there's two winter hunts, I think.

3
4 MR. HENRY: Yes.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

7
8 MR. JONES: Yes.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Michael Stickman

11
12 MR. STICKMAN: No.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Angle Demientieff.

15
16 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

19
20 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Was that a yes?

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Henry.....

27
28 MR. DEACON: Yes.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS:Deacon. Ray Collins.

31
32 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: And Ron Sam.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the motion
39 passes, three, six, seven -- seven for, one against.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. One of
42 the items that I want to bring up at 11:00, again, I'll
43 restate that Robert Nick and Fritz George are checking out
44 at noon so we'll bring up Area M plus our three resolutions
45 that we agreed upon down at Anchorage.

46
47 Do we -- Vince.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we do have Staff that's
50 willing to fill in on that. But you did have a couple of

00322

1 resolutions that you may want to bring up concerning the
2 Koyukuk River at this time. I don't know if you want to
3 wait to later.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, I'd rather do it right
6 now while we have Randy and Glenn.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, you asked me earlier, a
9 couple of weeks ago, to draft up some resolutions. I don't
10 know if I want to read them all to you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just the therefore be it
13 resolved.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I really got kind of
16 long-winded on the one. But the first resolution was to
17 continue to -- support continuing of the Koyukuk River
18 Moose Hunter Working Group. I won't go through all the
19 whereas but basically it was the feeling that the Koyukuk
20 working group was successful and the different user groups
21 understanding each other viewpoints, the resolution
22 conclusion was that the Western Interior Regional Advisory
23 Council encourages continuing the working group beyond the
24 time line associated with the goals set by the working
25 group. This requires continuing financial and staff
26 support for the working group from the Alaska Department,
27 from the Alaska Board of Game, the Alaska Department of
28 Fish and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board. The
29 Council desires this continuation because of efforts of
30 non-rural and rural working group members to work as
31 neighbors to protect mutual interests while recognizing
32 differences. The working group provides a form where non-
33 rural and rural residents as well as wildlife and land
34 managers can work together to understand each other needs
35 and with this understanding appreciate the potential
36 benefits, consensus building for long-range viable
37 management solutions.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: And what resolution number
40 is that?

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I forgot that part. That
43 would have been Resolution 01-00.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: And again, I have copies here
48 if others want to see it but the whereas' are all in here.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Just to remind Randy,

00323

1 this was also strongly backed up by Greg and a couple of
2 other non-subsistence users if you remember right. And I
3 think the Board -- we have quite a few Board members that
4 was there.

5

6 So at this time the Chair will entertain a motion
7 to adopt Resolution 01-00.

8

9 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

12

13 MR. JONES: (Nods)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved by Michael
16 Stickman, seconded by Benedict Jones to adopt Resolution
17 01; all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

22

23 (No opposing votes)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That resolution we
28 would provide to the Federal Subsistence Board and
29 Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Game on that.

30

31 02-00 is to support continuing of the community
32 harvest survey for the Middle Yukon and Koyukuk River
33 communities. I won't go through the whereas' there but
34 there is linkage to ANILCA, the fact that there needs to be
35 substantial evidence, there needs to be current and
36 accurate data and et cetera. But the bottom line of your
37 resolution, if you adopt it would be the Western Interior
38 Regional Advisory Council encourages continuing the
39 community harvest survey for big game species for the
40 Middle Yukon and Koyukuk River communities to protect the
41 wildlife resources and associated subsistence uses. The
42 continuation of the survey will ensure the Regional Council
43 along with the Federal Subsistence program will make
44 management recommendations and decisions -- I'll have to
45 add something there, let me amend it right now. The
46 continuation will ensure that the Regional Council, along
47 with the Federal Subsistence program will make wise
48 management recommendations and decisions, if that's okay on
49 that?

50

00324

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's.....

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Continuation of the survey
4 will play an important role with the Koyukuk River moose
5 management planning efforts. That's the gist of the
6 second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Resolution 02?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: 02, correct.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for the Council member
13 information, I think that we all know what I'm talking
14 about. We've had yearly surveys on moose harvest, caribou
15 harvest, bear harvest and everything that has to deal with
16 subsistence. This has been very successful in backing up
17 our proposals, our stoppages that we ask for and I would
18 like to continue -- I mean have this program continued and
19 continually funded.

20

21 So at this time the Chair will entertain a motion
22 to adopt Resolution 02.

23

24 MR. STICKMAN: I move to adopt.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, seconded. Any
33 questions. If not, all those in favor signify by saying
34 aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Do we have
43 anything else?

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's all I had
46 dealing with the Koyukuk River and the Western Interior.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, at this time I would
49 like to.....

50

00325

1 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I'm sorry, we did have
2 another one, 47, you did defer on that, do you want to
3 remain with 47, which deals with 21(D) cow harvest?

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the feelings of the
6 Council members? We tabled it and let it take its chances
7 as is, where is and wherever; is that still the feelings of
8 47; keep it tabled?

9
10 (No audible response)

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair decrees that 47
13 remains tabled.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that's fine. Just so
16 the record is clear. Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: What time is it?

19
20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Break time.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's take about a 15 minute
23 break and then reconvene. Again, I would like to take up
24 Area M and the resolutions we passed down at Anchorage.
25 Come back inside 15 minutes but before we go I would really
26 like to thank Randy Rogers, Glenn Stout and David James for
27 helping us out on this Koyukuk River Moose Working Group.
28 You know, this group started by one of our resolutions that
29 we passed while we were in session at Galena and we were
30 successful in obtaining the funding because the State Board
31 of Game was in session at that time down in Anchorage. So
32 this was a matter of shooting resolutions back and forth.
33 Again, thank you, Randy Rogers, David James for all your
34 participation.

35
36 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Ron. I just want
37 to say thanks to the whole Western Interior Advisory
38 Council. It's been a pleasure working with all of you
39 through this process and look forward to more of the same
40 in the future. We appreciate your input.

41
42 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I also would like
43 to thank the State for coming to the table on this issue
44 and addressing the concerns of the people of the Lower
45 Koyukuk with the moose resource down there.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you all. With that,
48 we'll take a 15 minute break. Please be back to about five
49 minutes to 11:00 for sure.

50

00326

1 (Off record)

2 (On record)

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to reconvene the
5 Western Interior Regional Subsistence Council meeting, back
6 to order. While we do have Staff around, Micky Stickman
7 has asked that we address the Kaiyuh Flats issue. Do you
8 have anything to add on that Micky? I understand you
9 wanted this while Glenn Stout and Randy Rogers was around
10 or David James.

11

12 MR. STICKMAN: Actually, these guys are on
13 a time line so Glenn is going to be here for a while so
14 maybe we can get through the Area M stuff first.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: How long will this take?

17

18 MR. STICKMAN: All I have is a question for
19 these two guys here and my concerns on the Kaiyuh but
20 actually we should get through with the Area M stuff first
21 because they're going to be getting ready to leave today.
22 Am I correct?

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, they're checking out at
25 12:00, yes.

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: So we should take care of
28 the Area M stuff first because Glenn is not going nowhere
29 and Eugene is not going nowhere but the guys from Y-K are
30 leaving.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this fine with you
33 people? I don't think Area M and these resolutions will
34 take very long. So be back here before -- we'll take you
35 up right after this then, if that's fine with you?

36

37 MR. STOUT: I'll be here this afternoon, I
38 won't be here tomorrow.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we'll take care of it
41 this morning then. Yeah, just stick around. I'll jump
42 around as we always do, we'll jump around on the agenda,
43 we'll take up -- yeah, Vince.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: I need to get a -- I know
46 what the answer is but I need to know, are you planning on
47 finishing up today? If you are, do we need to tell the
48 staff that we need to have this hall into the evening?
49 Generally they shut the hall down at 5:30.

50

00327

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything on that
2 Chuck?

3
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I know we would all like
5 to see this end today but.....

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think the pathway out
8 of this is I'll just tell the staff we'll work into the
9 evening and if we don't then we'll figure out billing
10 later.

11
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, that.....

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: I mean if that's okay with
15 you. My guess is you'll be done about 5:00 or 6:00,
16 depending on discussions, you could go as late as 7:00 or
17 8:00. I don't see it going beyond that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's your feeling Chuck?

20
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, that will work for
22 us.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Well, I'll go tell the
25 staff.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this okay with Western,
28 to try to get done today? Yes, because people have a lot
29 of things to do before.....

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. All right.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Terry.

34
35 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Keith Schultz
36 and Bonnie Borba are here from our Division of Commercial
37 Fisheries to present information on Area M. We're
38 expecting Tom Kron, the regional supervisor from Anchorage
39 to be here at any time so until he arrives, Keith Schultz
40 will present information to you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks. Is Bonnie Borba
43 with you Keith? Okay, we do have some overheads then.

44
45 For all of our Council members from both Eastern
46 and Western we do have handouts and are these the ones?

47
48 MR. SCHULTZ: Yes.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Keith will be

00328

1 covering the Yukon area summary and the outlook, the Area M
2 summary and then we'll go into the three resolutions that
3 we passed down at Anchorage, and that is the region why
4 we're still holding our Kuskokwim delegates. Go ahead,
5 Keith.

6
7 MR. SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
8 name is Keith Schultz. I'm the Yukon area management
9 biologist, I'm stationed here in Fairbanks. And as Terry
10 mentioned, Tom Kron, hopefully will be here with us
11 shortly. He knows a little bit more of the intricates of
12 the Area M fisheries. I'll be prepared to provide the
13 data, the fisheries harvest information and I know it
14 somewhat but not as well as Tom does.

15
16 What I'd like to do is just give a very brief
17 summary of the Yukon area fisheries, the 1999 season and
18 the outlook because that kind of affects how we look at
19 Area M. And I'd like to provide a little bit of
20 information concerning Area M.

21
22 So to start out with, the handout that I'd like to
23 do is it has a cover page map of the Yukon area. And
24 basically it is a very large drainage as we all know. It's
25 about a 1,200 miles just to the border up by Eagle, 1,200
26 river miles so it takes the salmon about 30 days to travel
27 that distance. It does make the management of the
28 fisheries fairly difficult. And basically this map also
29 has all the districts in it, Districts 1 through 6. And if
30 I didn't mention this, Nat Good points out that actually
31 6(D) is considered the Upper Tanana River portion, it's not
32 labeled here.

33
34 The first page, Table 1, the next page on Table 1,
35 provides the 1999 harvest and compares it to the recent 10
36 year average for the commercial harvest, for chinook,
37 followed by summer chum on the top and then the bottom
38 series is fall chums and coho salmon. And as you can --
39 this kind of summarizes, it was not that good of a season.
40 If you look at the summer season totals at the bottom,
41 69,000 approximately chinooks were harvested, that's
42 compared to a 10 year average of about a 100,000, so it
43 would be about 60 -- almost 70 percent of average. And it
44 gets worse for summer chums and fall chums. Summer chums,
45 29,000 commercial harvests compared to a recent 10 year
46 average of 533,000. That's about five percent of the
47 average. Fall chums, coho salmon, very similar pictures.
48 Very small commercial harvests last year, 1999, total for
49 all districts was 20,000, and that's about 19 percent of
50 that 10 year average of about 104,000. And for coho

00329

1 salmon, similar 1,600 only were harvested last year
2 commercially and the recent 10 year average is 38,000 so
3 that's about four percent of average. Very low numbers and
4 this has been fairly consistent for the last several years.
5 We've had some very low returns of salmon to the Yukon
6 River. Commercial harvests have been very, very low.

7
8 Not listed here is how did we do on escapement?
9 Basically for escapement for all these species were below
10 what we would like to have seen. There were some areas
11 that we made it but generally speaking the escapement this
12 past year for all four species here were below the desired
13 levels.

14
15 So how does it look for the year 2000, this coming
16 season? That's the last table there on the summary, Table
17 2, and I have a list there chinook, summer chum, fall chum
18 coho salmon and our outlooks are the next column.
19 Basically we're looking at weak to below average for both
20 chinook and summer chums. We're looking for another, not a
21 very good commercial season. Hopefully no subsistence
22 restrictions would be needed but we're not looking at a
23 very good commercial season.

24
25 For fall chums and coho salmon we're also looking
26 for probably a below average return. If you noticed there
27 for fall chum salmon, it's the only species that we
28 actually come up with a number, preseason projection and
29 it's actually about the only species in AY-K, Arctic Yukon-
30 Kuskokwim that we actually come up with a number for a
31 range on a preseason projection and that's 569,000 to 1.1
32 million. That's a very huge range. That would represent
33 maybe normal subsistence fishing to a very, very good year
34 for commercial. That's the range that that represents.
35 And the reason for that range is if you look at the parent
36 year escapement and this applies to almost all the species,
37 if you look at the parent year escapement, how many fish
38 did we get on the spawning grounds were very, very good.
39 You would anticipate some good returns from that. But what
40 we've seen now here for about the last two and almost three
41 years, is we're not getting the return that we're
42 anticipating when you look at the spawning grounds. And
43 that's where that lower number comes from, the 569,000.

44
45 We applied the disappointment of the returns to
46 this following year, the year 2000, and when you do that
47 you come up with about 569,000 should be returning. So
48 despite parent year escapement, more than likely it would
49 probably -- if the trend continues we'll be at the lower
50 end of this range which would mean no commercial fishing

00330

1 and hopefully normal subsistence fishing but that's --
2 that's something we'd look at in-season.

3
4 The next column is the commercial outlook for the
5 species. Again, these are very, very low numbers. Would
6 represent a continue of about -- this would be the third
7 year of these kind of numbers. And then the furthest
8 column is the guideline harvest range. And if you notice
9 that basically all the numbers that we're looking at for
10 outlook is below the low end of the guideline harvest
11 range.

12
13 So kind of a disappointing picture for the Yukon
14 area and it's been going on now for like I say for about
15 three years. It's not because of parent year escapement,
16 it's basically very good parent year escapements for all
17 these species, we're just having some very, very
18 disappointing returns. And this is not just happening in
19 the Kuskokwim, Norton Sound, even Kotzebue to some extent
20 and Bristol Bay has been hit on and off with it. It makes
21 us believe that it's not the -- the main cause of the
22 problem is not the in river, it's not getting the fish on
23 the spawning grounds, it makes us kind of -- having all
24 those systems being poor it kind of makes a point that
25 something is happening in the marine environment. They're
26 not surviving in the marine environment like they should
27 be.

28
29 So that's kind of a summary that I have for the
30 Yukon area. And I guess I'd be willing to take questions
31 concerning the Yukon area and then I'd like to follow it
32 after questions on the Yukon, I could give an Area M
33 summary.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Craig Fleener.

36
37 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
38 basically what I've gotten from what you told us is that
39 we've been -- all along the Yukon River we've been working
40 at trying to up the escapement numbers and the only real
41 benefit from us doing this is benefitting the large
42 commercial fishermen out in the ocean because they're
43 probably still catching an awful lot of fish. So all the
44 work and all the sacrifices that we've been forced to make,
45 especially as subsistence fishermen, the benefit is going
46 to commercial fishermen out in the ocean and to me that
47 sounds like it's quite a bit backwards. I think that
48 considering a priority is for subsistence fishermen. The
49 commercial fishermen out in the ocean should be making a
50 little bit of sacrifice so our families can eat.

00331

1 Thanks.

2

3 MR. SCHULTZ: Mr. Chairman, I guess the
4 response comment would be, is that, I'm not here to support
5 or defend high-seas fisheries or the fisheries, my job is
6 to manage the fisheries as it hits the Yukon River. But
7 when you add up the amount of fish that's missing for the
8 Yukon, Kuskokwim, Norton Sound, Kotzebue and even in those
9 years, Bristol Bay, interception fisheries aren't
10 accounting for it all, there's something else going on.
11 They're not helping the situation, I'll agree with that but
12 there's something else going on that -- there's just too
13 much fish missing. You know, we should be seeing more.

14

15 My other comment would be, I guess, I wouldn't want
16 to say that in those years that we made the parent year
17 escapement that we're dealing with here and we're getting
18 these poor returns, I guess I'm thankful that we did make
19 those parent year escapements and we're getting poor
20 returns off of them. But boy, if we didn't get those good
21 escapements in, we could have even got a lower return back
22 these few years and right now we've been bouncing in that
23 area where, you know, we've been leaving subsistence open.
24 But if we were dealing with poor parent year escapement, we
25 could have been in that realm of more strict subsistence
26 fisheries in order to try to get better on the spawning
27 grounds. So I wouldn't want to say that they're not, you
28 know, making the spawning -- the escapement didn't provide
29 any benefits to us, I think they did. It's just that it's
30 very unfortunate we're getting this production that we are.

31

32 MR. FLEENER: So then you think that the
33 intercept fishery may not be having as high an impact as
34 what we're thinking it may have? I'm just taking on what
35 you said, that there has got to be something else besides
36 the intercept fishery; is that correct?

37

38 MR. SCHULTZ: My personal opinion would be,
39 is that, the high-seas fisheries and the interception
40 fisheries such as Area M are not accounting for -- they're
41 not helping the situation, let's say that, they're
42 harvesting fish that would be bound for the Yukon River,
43 we'd have more fish in the Yukon River if those fisheries
44 didn't exist, but I don't believe that they're accounting
45 for this tremendous poor production that we're seeing.
46 There is evidence and indications in the marine environment
47 that there are things happening out there that are probably
48 having a negative effect on our production of salmon out
49 there, their survivability to the marine environment.

50

00332

1 MR. FLEENER: Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Nat. Use the mic.

4

5 MR. GOOD: Yeah, we've been hearing
6 recently about a decidual or duodecidaul cycle on ocean
7 currents, one that may mean that for the next 20 years we
8 might have a lot of pollock, a lot of birds, might have a
9 lot of problems with salmon; are you familiar with that?

10

11 MR. SCHULTZ: To a limited extent. I mean
12 basically I concentrate on the Yukon River and as I
13 mentioned to Craig, I have a full-time job just trying to
14 deal with the runs in-season but obviously I have concerns
15 about what's happening in the marine environment. And you
16 mentioned this earlier in this meeting about this shift out
17 there and there is a shift and they call it a regime shift
18 and what it is is the Gulf -- the flow of the ocean current
19 as it hits the Southeast Alaska, it can flow north or
20 south. It can flow out into the Gulf of Alaska or it can
21 flow down into Southeast, British Columbia, Washington.
22 And there is information that suggests that there's a cycle
23 every 20 years, and this ocean current brings nutrients and
24 it helps the salmon production in those -- whichever way it
25 flows and there is information that would suggest that
26 we've been the benefit of that regime shift for the last 20
27 years and that there may -- we may be seeing a shift and it
28 looks like it could be that flow is going to benefit more
29 for British Columbia, Southeast and Washington. And that's
30 not to say that every 20 -- you know, during this 20 year
31 cycle we'll have all bad years. What it means is that
32 we'll have a tendency to have more low years and our highs
33 won't be as high and the lows will be lower. But we'll
34 still have good returns it's just that there is -- mother
35 nature's working a little bit against us when that flow is
36 flowing south instead of north.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

39

40 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, Keith, I was just
41 wondering if it was mostly environmental, the change
42 through the ocean climate and stuff and another thing that
43 is the migration route of the fish is probably not known,
44 but there is other high-sea intercept, other nations out
45 there that might be having a drastic effect on the Yukon
46 area fish besides the high-sea intercept from the Alaska.

47

48 MR. SCHULTZ: No, I'm not totally familiar
49 with all the high-seas marine fisheries but I've talked to
50 people that are more familiar with it. And getting back to

00333

1 the amount of fish that we're missing and, you know,
2 everyone kind of says, well, there could be Korean
3 fisheries or Russians out there that aren't reporting their
4 harvest but people that I've talked to that are kind of in
5 the know suggest that the amount of fish that are missing,
6 that if there was a fisheries out there harvesting it you
7 would see it on the market somewhere. You would see it in
8 the cold storage, you'd see it -- there'd be a good amount
9 of fish that would be introduced into the market and no
10 one's seeing that. So I mean I'm not saying that there
11 aren't other fisheries out there that aren't harvesting
12 fish off the Yukon, it's just that it's probably not the
13 amount of fish that we're missing.

14
15 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I guess you know I
16 talked to Pat Moore last year and about 18 years ago the
17 Japanese predicted this would happen along the Yukon River.
18 They had a prediction and I see pretty much see it coming
19 through.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gerald. Robert.

22
23 MR. NICK: On these numbers you have on the
24 commercial harvest, what I'm wondering is on the, I guess,
25 per unit effort, you know, per fish, you know, how many
26 fishermen were out there fishing to represent these
27 numbers, my experience on the Kuskokwim and my
28 observations, because of the low price of salmon, less
29 people go out to fish. At least last spring, you know, the
30 price of chum salmon in Bethel was 10 cents per pound and
31 the price of king salmon was 25 cents per pound. And then
32 in the Yukon, you know, which is just the next river, the
33 price -- we don't even have a king fishery on the
34 Kuskokwim, we just have a six inch mesh, you know,
35 requirement, so what kings we catch commercially is
36 incidentally caught king salmon. But I guess my question
37 here is on these numbers, is there a factor in on the
38 effort? Maybe there were less people out there because of
39 the low price for their catch. That's my question.

40
41 The other comment I'd like to make is through the
42 years, I've listened to the people that make efforts to try
43 to reduce the intercept catch of chums, you know, in Area M
44 and then also I know that we'll be discussing that later,
45 but in the -- maybe when it's a proper time I'll ask that.
46 But I do have one question that surfaced to me, it was told
47 to me last spring. We had an earlier, probably at least a
48 week, maybe a week to 12 days earlier catch of kings this
49 year on the Kuskokwim and then the kings were richer than
50 they -- and to me, to my catch, they were richer than they

00334

1 had been in the past. And then there were some comments --
2 in fact, one lady who was in her 80s that I visited when
3 the kings first came, told me, you know, unequivocally, you
4 know, without any doubt at all, to her it was a statement,
5 that she told me that her son went out yesterday and fished
6 and caught so many kings and she told me -- her next
7 comment was that those are Yukon kings. Is there a way to
8 tell whether those kings came into the Kuskokwim instead of
9 going around the bend over to the Yukon River? Maybe the
10 weather -- one thing that kept me wondering was the weather
11 pattern. We kept having the southwest weather, pretty
12 heavy southwest weather at the time. So maybe the kings
13 came in to the Kuskokwim.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MR. SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
18 guess I'd like to make the record known here, Tom Kron,
19 Regional supervisor for AY-K has joined us here, too.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for showing up Tom.
22 Did you get that question, Keith?

23
24 MR. SCHULTZ: Yes, I guess I got two parts
25 of the questions. One was the price, how does it affect
26 the effort and does the Department use that information or
27 take that into account? And, you know, I think you bring
28 up a good point, in that, both Yukon, Kuskokwim, Western
29 Alaska in general kind of hit a double-whammy, in that,
30 we've had poor runs, particularly of chums plus when we are
31 able to sell them we've been getting poor prices for them.
32 A lot of times that works in the opposite, you know, when
33 you have little bit lower harvest, you know, sometimes the
34 price will work out, but that hasn't been the case here.
35 And we understand that, you know, fishermen really feel
36 that, when the reduced harvest and also they're getting not
37 as much for them. How the Department takes that into
38 account, maybe, when they -- it doesn't affect total amount
39 of harvest that we feel can be taken. We still take X
40 amount. It just means -- might mean that we may have
41 another period to get that level or we might have a longer
42 period to get that level but it doesn't affect our total
43 harvest.

44
45 The second part that I got would be, you know, the
46 possibility of Yukon River kings entering the Kuskokwim
47 River, and can GSI -- you know, I mean there is some
48 strain, there would be some strain, I think that occurs
49 naturally but I just don't -- I wouldn't think that a
50 significant number of Yukon kings would be bound, you know,

00335

1 I don't -- maybe those kings that you noticed that were
2 richer, we also have that on the Yukon, and they usually
3 indicate the fish are going way, way up river and they're
4 the ones that tend to be more oilier. And for whatever
5 reason that subsistence fisherman could have latched into
6 that particular stock that was going way up there. In
7 other years they might be catching other stocks that might
8 be a little bit lower bound, would be more my guess.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we know the Yukon area
11 outlook is glum so before we take anymore questions we
12 might try to lump everything into our perceived idea of why
13 our outlook is so glum so let's briefly go into Area M
14 unless you had a question, Craig.

15
16 MR. FLEENER: I just wanted to ask Keith,
17 since he was talking about pricing, if there's a lower
18 price for the commercially caught salmon as well and that
19 may be why we're seeing less in the markets because people
20 are choosing to fish for other species or do you know?

21
22 MR. SCHULTZ: I guess I'd have to qualify
23 that statement, in that, chinooks -- actually chinooks and
24 the Yukon kings have been holding their own. I mean
25 they've been relatively good prices. They're a very
26 specialty market, high oil content king, they're very high
27 in demand. So chums would be more -- those comments would
28 be more directed towards the chum salmon. And part of it
29 is it's not so much -- there's many factors, it's a very
30 open market, supply and demand type efforts are at work
31 here that makes those prices. And kind of what's happening
32 that we're up against is fish farming and hatcheries
33 worldwide, not just here in Alaska but in Chile and Norway
34 and such are supplying a lot of these fish at a very
35 reasonable price. And so, you know, the supply is out
36 there and that's putting pressure on reducing our prices
37 here on the Yukon, too.

38
39 MR. FLEENER: So is the farm salmon taken
40 into account for the statement you made earlier that the
41 markets are seeing fewer numbers of salmon? Are they
42 seeing fewer numbers of wild salmon or are they seeing
43 fewer numbers all across and if they are, do you think that
44 may be because of lower pricing?

45
46 MR. SCHULTZ: What my comment earlier was
47 was that there would be this large unknown of fish entering
48 the market that can't be accounted for where it came from
49 and we're not seeing that. You know, the fish that are
50 coming into the market can be accounted for for what

00336

1 fisheries that they're coming into the market from.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: Dan Albrecht was telling us
6 about how the trawl fleet, when they -- the number are very
7 unclear how they account for interception of chinook and
8 chum in their trawl drags. They do a sampling of a load
9 and it's very inaccurate. Do you have concerns with the
10 amounts of fish that may be unaccounted for in those trawl
11 samples?

12

13 MR. SCHULTZ: You know, I think what Dan --
14 what I heard Dan Albrecht say yesterday was that there may
15 be concerns in the sampling program, that there's some -- I
16 guess I'll call it wow in the data. But I believe what he
17 also mentioned was that the trend on it would be relatively
18 good. And so in other words, if this year is lower than
19 this year and this year is lower yet, one more, that that
20 probably is the trend that's going down, whether it's
21 45,000 fish or 50,000, maybe 40, I think there may be some
22 concerns in that.

23

24 MR. REAKOFF: The way I would interpret
25 that myself is that they have observers making sure that
26 the certain counts are made and other boats aren't. And of
27 course you would show a trend with the 30 percent observer
28 factor. But if fish are being dumped overboard, you know,
29 whether they're processed and the bycatch is thrown
30 overboard, what I want to know is how many fish are being
31 lost to this bycatch? How many fish are being thrown away
32 and that number as far as I can tell is undiscernible. And
33 is the Department worried enough about it to petition to
34 have salmon that are caught in trawl gear separated and
35 counted and processed and delivered back to the people that
36 they belong to?

37

38 I feel that those fish should be accounted for.
39 This is a big unquestioned amount of fish and I feel that
40 those fish should be accounted for. If taken they should
41 be accounted for.

42

43 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, my name is Tom
44 Kron. Maybe I can try to address that as best I can. The
45 North Pacific Fishery Management Council is real concerned
46 about the very kinds of issues that you've raised,
47 particularly Robin Samuelsen who is a representative from
48 Bristol Bay and he's a member of the Council. The State
49 representative has pushed these issues as well as a result
50 of these kinds of concerns, they've got mandatory observer

00337

1 coverages on the boats. In some cases a mandatory -- two
2 observers. You know, neither Keith nor I are real familiar
3 with the process out there. You know, our interests, I
4 think, like yours is to get the best possible information
5 we can and try to keep that bycatch down.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

8
9 MR. NICHOLIA: You mentioned observers on
10 the boat, is that just only on the trawlers, the fish
11 processors or is this actually on the driftnet boats?

12
13 MR. KRON: The observers that I mentioned
14 are on the -- basically the high-seas fisheries that's
15 managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service and
16 regulated by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.
17 Most of the bycatch is coming in the trawl fisheries. And
18 they're trawling mainly for pollock but they catch both
19 king salmon and chum salmon as well as some other species
20 and some of the information that I just brought with me has
21 some information on that and what the catches have been and
22 I will talk about it a little bit in my presentation as
23 well.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Benedict.

26
27 MR. JONES: I have two questions. The
28 first question is do you monitor the water temperature when
29 the fish is migrating into the Yukon and the Kuskokwim
30 River, and the second question is, what is the trawler
31 fishing mesh size they're using out there to intercept our
32 fish? Do they use a bigger mesh or something that will
33 have more escapement to the Yukon and Kuskokwim River?

34
35 MR. SCHULTZ: I guess I'll respond to the
36 monitoring water temperatures and you know, most of our
37 field projects, including those at the mouth, at the test
38 fisheries and as you work up river, some of the other
39 monitoring and escapement projects do take water
40 temperatures, you know, as of course of the projects
41 operational -- daily operational methods. But -- and I
42 think where you're coming from is generally we have seen a
43 little bit lower water levels here these last several years
44 and some of these projects have been indicating a little
45 bit warmer temperatures, yes.

46
47 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Jones, the
48 second part of your question, I believe, was about mesh
49 size on the trawlers. And again, neither Keith nor I
50 manage those fisheries, they're managed by the Federal

00338

1 government, the National Marine Fisheries Service. And I
2 know that they do have regulations about what the mesh
3 sizes are but I'm not exactly sure what they are and I
4 didn't bring that information along. They're relatively
5 small mesh sizes compared to salmon gillnets, for example,
6 and again, they're fishing for pollock, which are smaller
7 than salmon. And occasionally if they're in the right spot
8 and there's lots of salmon around they also catch salmon
9 and we know that they catch both chinook and chum salmon.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Tom, you mentioned the
12 report and I'm still trying to get the Area M summary
13 because we believe that's the main problem with getting
14 fish up our river. Would you present your report?

15
16 MR. SCHULTZ: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll
17 proceed. Handouts were previously given out and I'm going
18 to address some of the information in those and then Tom
19 has -- will carry it a little bit further.

20
21 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I guess, again,
22 I'd understood when Keith had asked for help in responding
23 to Chairman Demientieff's request, that you were looking
24 for additional information on the resolutions that you had
25 passed at the training session about a month ago. And I'd
26 come prepared to talk briefly about the hatchery issue, the
27 Area M issue, the marine trawl fisheries as well as marine
28 productivity issues. I can focus just on Area M if that's
29 what you'd like.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, can Keith give us this
32 handout, what did you want to cover Keith?

33
34 MR. SCHULTZ: Okay. Basically at the
35 beginning of this break or beginning after the break we
36 passed out, there's a series of three handouts. Two of
37 them are marked, one of them South Unimak and Shumigan
38 Island June salmon fisheries management plan 1999. The
39 second one is the post-June management plan for the south
40 Alaska Peninsula 1999. These are the management plans that
41 are provided pre-season. They kind of go into what they're
42 expecting in those fisheries, this is the Area M fisheries
43 and how they're going to plan on managing it. The third
44 handout is titled preliminary summary of the 1999 salmon
45 season. And I was just going to -- if you could pull that
46 handout out, there's a couple tables I was going to refer
47 you to.

48
49 Basically to start out, there's just some
50 highlights I was going to point out and this is a summary

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1 of the 1999 season and what's referred to as the Area M
2 fisheries. And if you look on the first page there, bullet
3 number 1, it has the chum cap. They used to have a chum
4 cap that was 700,000 but now it's a floating chum cap and
5 it goes from 350 to 650,000. So it's a floating chum cap
6 that they have for that fisheries. And if you look at
7 these management plans, what it was going into this season
8 was that the low end of that range, they were -- they had a
9 chum cap of 350 to 400,000. So that was the chum cap that
10 they had going into the season.

11
12 If you turn to page 4 of this handout, this is
13 talking about the 1999 harvest. The middle of Page 4 has a
14 table for South Unimak and Shumigan Islands, considered
15 kind of jointly as the Area M fisheries. And if you look
16 over at the chum column, their chum harvest, this is for
17 their June fisheries was 245,306. So that's actually below
18 their, you know, their cap that they had going in the
19 season of 250 to 400,000. You don't have to -- if you
20 could just stay on that page, but remember Dan Albrecht
21 passed out a handout on your first day and he had a table
22 at the end of his handout that had historical harvest of
23 that fisheries. If you remember it was a table and a graph
24 on the front. And he didn't have the 1999 information in
25 there so you might have to take this information and put it
26 in that table. But basically that harvest of 245,306 is
27 the lowest since 1979 in that fisheries. It's certainly
28 below their recent averages and it's the lowest since 1979.

29
30 They also -- and the June fisheries, what
31 information's there suggests that that's harvesting chum
32 salmon for Western Alaska along with other chum salmon but
33 it's primarily the summer chum salmon for the Yukon that
34 would be affected.

35
36 There is a post-June fisheries that occurs and they
37 also intercept chum salmon and it's believed that that'd be
38 more fall chum salmon bound fish for the Yukon River.

39
40 If you go to Page 8 of that handout, that bottom
41 table on Page 8 shows the post-June fisheries harvest. And
42 if you look at the chum salmon, the furthest column over,
43 this table has 567,665 -- it's noted that this summary came
44 out on October 25 and this fishery was fishing through
45 September 26th [sic]. They've since updated that number,
46 it hasn't changed significantly. But the updated number is
47 567,929 instead of 665, it's 929. And again, if you go
48 back to Dan Albrecht's handout that he provided earlier he
49 was lacking 1999 information, this number would fit in
50 there. And when you compare 567,929 to historical average

00340

1 it is below average for that fisheries but it's a little
2 bit higher than you saw for the June fisheries. There's
3 actually, within the last 10 years there were five -- five
4 of the last 10 years actually had lower numbers, had a
5 lower harvest than that. So it's right about in the middle
6 of within the last five years or last 10 years. So in the
7 last 10 years, there's actually five years that had even a
8 lower harvest and there were five years that had a higher
9 harvest.

10
11 So that's the fisheries. And that's kind of the
12 update that we had for the Area M fisheries.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions. Robert.

15
16 MR. NICK: If I can ask the same question
17 again, you know, these numbers, based on a high harvest, is
18 it, my question again is, how many fishermen were out --
19 how many permit holders were out there harvesting these
20 fish? Maybe the price of salmon there had an affect on the
21 efforts.

22
23 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Nick, I think
24 maybe while Keith is looking for a number of permit holders
25 I don't remember exactly what it is. I'll just respond
26 generally. It's my understanding that prices for the
27 fishermen, the commercial fisheries out there have been
28 down just like they have in other areas. In some years
29 they've had strikes as well and with the processors because
30 of the low prices.

31
32 MR. SCHULTZ: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I guess
33 Robert, to answer that question I'd have to go through this
34 report. I'm not as familiar with these fisheries as -- you
35 know, I'm here to provide rough data. I do believe the
36 permit information is in here but it has it broken down
37 into the individual fisheries. It'd be like our districts,
38 let's say, you know, District 1 had so many effort. And
39 then if you go for like on Page 9, there's 222 permits just
40 for the North Peninsula.

41
42 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, the reason I ask
43 those questions, in the lowest unit on the Kuskokwim, when
44 Fish and Game makes a weekly harvest or weekly catch
45 reports, give out the total numbers of fish caught and then
46 also total number of fishermen that were out there fishing
47 to catch those numbers.

48
49 And I know that in my village, this spring after
50 they heard the price of salmon, in my village, I think five

00341

1 people went out, I think before, all the rest stay home
2 because 10 cents a pound for chum and for them to go both
3 ways, over a hundred miles to fish, was not work the effort
4 because they would be losing. So that was the reason I
5 asked the question. Because the Fish and Game reports in
6 my fishery does give numbers on the total number of catch
7 and the total number of the effort. And then the number I
8 heard in permit holders on the Kuskokwim, I believe there's
9 800 plus holders. And then the numbers you pass here is in
10 the -- in that particular Unimak area is 100 permit
11 holders.

12
13 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Nick, again,
14 maybe we can keep looking to see how many permit holders
15 they have. Again, my understanding, general understanding
16 is they have quite a few less permit holders than we do on
17 either the Yukon or the Kuskokwim in their commercial
18 fishery. Keith and I are at a little bit of a disadvantage
19 here because we don't manage this fishery. You know, we've
20 been involved in Board of Fisheries meetings and then
21 presented information on AY-K stock status and AY-K
22 subsistence fisheries and commercial fisheries so we've
23 heard some of this. But again we, the past couple of days
24 scrambled to get information faxed in from Kodiak and from
25 Juneau to try to answer your questions as best we could.
26 But I think we can get that answer for you from the
27 reports.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert, when's your meeting?
30

31
32 MR. NICK: In three weeks.
33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: And you will have these
35 people down there, too, won't you?
36

37 MR. NICK: I hope so.
38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Won't you?
40

41 MR. NICK: Yes.
42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: For that question. Do we
44 have any more questions from the Council? Jack.
45

46 MR. REAKOFF: You don't manage the Area M
47 fishery but don't you make input into what that chum cap
48 would be, the level of the chum cap? Don't you send in
49 requests, I see last year's run strength between four, five
50 and 11 percent strengths just historical catch levels, do

00342

1 you make recommendation for those caps to be reduced
2 accordingly?

3

4 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Reakoff, the
5 decision on the chum cap has been a Board of Fisheries
6 issue. If you look back at the historical information that
7 Dan Albrecht handed out, back in 1982, there was a very
8 large catch, over a million chums and that same year there
9 were very poor chum salmon runs to AY-K and that got that
10 process going. And basically the Board of Fisheries has
11 looked at this issue and the chum cap issue almost every
12 year. And every time they do it, you know, we get called
13 in to present information on AY-K stock status and AY-K
14 subsistence catches and commercial catches and what, you
15 know, what we've had to do and in some of the years we've
16 had closures and restrictions. But the decision about who
17 makes the call and it has been, you know, an allocation
18 decision which means the Board of Fisheries does it. I've
19 made statements at these Board of Fisheries meetings to the
20 effect that every fish counts and we're not making
21 escapements, we're not providing for subsistence, we've got
22 to get as many fish back as possible but, again, it's the
23 Board of Fish that has made the call on what these chum
24 caps should be.

25

26 Dan Albrecht, again, he works for both YRDFA and
27 Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, the proposal to go to a
28 floating chum cap was adopted in 1998 in response to a
29 proposal that Bering Sea Fishermen's Association had
30 submitted to the Board. The Board subsequently adopted and
31 based on that, again, they've got a floating chum cap now
32 whereby if the forecast for chums in the AY-K region is
33 low, they go to the lower end of that guideline harvest of
34 350 to 650 and furthermore, if we got concerns about
35 stocks, if we've got management concerns, we've got
36 concerns with some Yukon stocks and Norton Sound stocks,
37 they go to the lower end of each of those brackets and for
38 that reason, they've been at the 350 to 400,000 cap level
39 the past two years and that's exactly where the cap will be
40 this next summer as well.

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, it's my opinion
43 that those chum caps are set too high. They were set on a
44 historic record before these things began to fall way down
45 to these very low percentages of returns. And I feel that
46 the Fish Board should revisit those chum caps and adjust
47 according to the run strengths that are predicted. And it
48 will be my objective with this Federal fisheries management
49 to see that those chum caps are adjusted according to the
50 run strengths of the systems that we're trying to protect.

00343

1 That's only prudent management.

2

3 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Reakoff,
4 possibly a brief comment. The Governor, last fall,
5 specifically asked the Boar of Fish to revisit the chum
6 issue because of how poor the chum runs had been in AY-K
7 and also the coho runs last year and in recent years have
8 been very poor in the Kuskokwim. The Board is going to
9 take it up, they're going to -- they've now scheduled it, I
10 think, now for March 27th, at the end of the March 4
11 meeting in Anchorage. And there's going to basically be
12 probably more than a full day of Staff reports and
13 discussion on this issue. And I guess I wanted to, you
14 know, invite and encourage any of you that are really
15 interested in this issue to plan to sit in on that
16 discussion. But the Board is going to take a look at it
17 and both the AY-K, Bristol Bay and Area M regulations come
18 up again a year from now. The Bristol Bay meeting is in
19 November, AY-K meeting is in December and then Area M is in
20 January. So all the regulations will come for
21 reconsideration. But again, the Board will be looking at
22 it again at March 27th in Anchorage at their Board meeting.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, so much for brevity.
25 I see a lot of our questions are reflected in the
26 resolutions and our concerns are reflected in our
27 resolutions. Maybe we could go into that unless you had
28 something that we didn't -- we've not covered. Go ahead.

29

30 MR. GOOD: Just one quick question here, as
31 I understand it our escapement is low across the board in
32 salmon stocks. The river seems to be healthy. The bottom
33 line is what are we going to do about escapement because
34 without escapement and healthy escapement, we're not going
35 to get anywhere. We can talk all we want about how many
36 fish are going to be caught and how to catch more fish but
37 without escapement there weren't going to be fish to be
38 caught. And, you know, what are we going to do to get the
39 escapement that is needed.

40

41 MR. SCHULTZ: Yes, Mr. Chairman, basically
42 that's my job is to try to get escapement. I mean that's
43 what I try to do every year and that's why you're seeing
44 commercial harvests at such low levels here in the Yukon
45 River in recent years. In fact, in recent years we've had
46 subsistence restrictions as far as closures, the one day a
47 week, as you recall and that's -- all those are efforts to
48 get the fish on the spawning grounds. And, you know, we
49 try to manage what we can with the fish return and there
50 just hasn't been a lot of surplus available for harvest.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Craig.

2

3 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
4 wanted to ask for, I guess, comparison reasons, how many
5 chums were -- if you have numbers in your mind were caught
6 on the Yukon last year? Subsistence caught chums?

7

8 MR. SCHULTZ: I can go off the top of my
9 head for fall chums. I'm more familiar with fall chums
10 than I am for summer chums and I see, Bonnie, we could
11 possibly get it for summer chums, but for fall chums, I
12 believe the 1999, our most preliminary -- it's a very
13 preliminary estimate, it's going to change as we get --
14 it's a subsistence survey and we need to contact the people
15 that are missing, we're getting permits still back. But
16 it's going to be in the neighborhood of around 80,000 of
17 fall chum salmon which is subsistence harvest for fall
18 chums and that's considerably below average.

19

20 MR. FLEENER: Okay. I guess I was thinking
21 it was going to be around there but I was going to ask next
22 is -- or point out, I guess, is that subsistence is
23 supposed to be a priority for management. Maybe it's not
24 for fish, maybe it's only for wildlife. Is subsistence a
25 management priority for fish as well in the state, I think
26 it is.

27

28 MR. SCHULTZ: Yes, it is. And in fact, I
29 will again refer to the fall chums because I'm most
30 familiar with that, but we have a fall chum management plan
31 that's built into regulations. I presented this plan to
32 many members here in past meetings but it's structured very
33 -- it's very clearly laid out that subsistence has the
34 highest priority.

35

36 MR. FLEENER: Right. And I guess the only
37 thing I want to do is compare the number of fall chums
38 caught -- this is a total number of chums caught in the
39 post-June south Peninsula harvest that you pointed out,
40 567,929, and whatever -- we add the summer chums into this,
41 it's still going to be quite a bit lower than the amount
42 caught for commercial purposes. And if subsistence is a
43 priority, why does it seem like we continue to hurt the
44 subsistence users the most and I'm not opposed to
45 commercial fishing, not in the least bit, however, the
46 priority does lie with subsistence fishing. We know that
47 escapement is low. I think we really know what to do, I
48 just don't know why we're not doing it.

49

50 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, maybe I can try to

00345

1 answer that as best I can. One of the reports that is
2 going to be given on March 27th is a genetic stock
3 identification study report that is just now being
4 completed. And one of the things that they're looking for
5 in that is to figure out what portion of the chums are fall
6 chum origin. They have fisheries out there in bays, they
7 have rivers out there that produce chums. In addition to
8 that, in the marine waters, they have fish swimming by that
9 are headed to Japan, that are headed to Russia, that are
10 headed to Southeast Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Cook Inlet,
11 Prince William Sound and AY-K and Bristol Bay and Norton
12 Sound. So their fisheries are conducted on a large mix of
13 different stocks. And when the Board of Fish has looked at
14 this issue they've struggled with trying to figure out, you
15 know, what portion of those fish are headed to the Yukon or
16 what portion are headed to Kuskokwim, Norton Sound.

17
18 I guess in answer to the question of managing for
19 subsistence priority, again, you know, Keith and I
20 basically work with AY-K fisheries. Keith is responsible
21 for the fall fisheries on the Yukon but, again, within the
22 Yukon or within the Kuskokwim we work with what we've got.
23 You know, the people on the Kuskokwim this past summer had
24 one commercial opening for chums, one for coho and there
25 was no fishing on beyond that because we were trying to get
26 escapement and subsistence needs met and Keith does exactly
27 the same thing with the fall season. We do it in Norton
28 Sound, we do it in the summer season on the Yukon as well.

29
30 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 think your point is well taken and, of course, we
32 appreciate what you guys do on the Yukon, but I think what
33 you've said in pointing out that these fish go to all these
34 other places actually just adds to the importance of trying
35 to get a grip on what's being caught out in the ocean and I
36 think that's the intent of several of the proposals that we
37 have before us. Something has to be done with the
38 fisheries out there because these -- we don't know how many
39 of them are coming to the Yukon or the Kuskokwim. And if
40 there's nine or 12 or 13, 15 other regions that those are
41 going to then it's even more important to make sure that we
42 protect those stocks for subsistence purposes. If those
43 are even more subdivided into areas we have absolutely no
44 control over, Japan or these other countries, we absolutely
45 need to put our hands in there somehow and do the best we
46 can to provide a -- to maintain a subsistence priority
47 instead of stopping subsistence fishermen from catching the
48 fish that they need. And stopping the commercial fishing
49 on the Yukon River isn't really going to do it. That's not
50 -- I mean we've identified that in our joint meeting as

00346

1 probably not having a whole lot of affect. And you've said
2 that yourself, but you're doing what you can, and we
3 appreciate that. We don't think the problem lies within
4 the Yukon River as you just said, the problem probably lies
5 out in the ocean and that's what we want to do with these
6 proposals.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We'll take two more
11 comments, Gerald and then Fritz, and then we'll move on to
12 the resolutions.

13

14 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I just wanted to say
15 that Robert Nick and Fritz have to leave and that we should
16 adopt those resolutions formally, that's what this idea's
17 all about.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Fritz.

20

21 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
22 don't know what to say, like maybe the failure of the
23 returns is caused by mismanaging of salmon by the Board of
24 Fish through the Department or it seems like we're
25 experiencing some kind of an unnatural thing going on like,
26 you know, we heard about tens of thousands of seabirds
27 dying off in the Bering Sea. And my question would be
28 like, as soon as the Federal government's coming in and
29 regulating the fisheries from now on are we hoping to see
30 that -- or looking at cutting down commercial fishing
31 powers in the Area M?

32

33 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, again, I think one
34 of the -- when we're talking about how to respond to the
35 Governor's proposal to relook at the AY-K chum regulations,
36 how the fisheries are managed across the migration
37 corridor. The Chairman, John White, in the work session
38 that was held here in Fairbanks last fall made the comment
39 that, you know, with the disastrous returns we've seen here
40 across AY-K for three years, you know, we need to relook
41 at, you know, these fisheries. We need to relook at the
42 Area M fishery, the trawl fishery, you know, we got major
43 problems. And again, that's what the focus of the
44 discussion will be on March 27th.

45

46 Again, you got the numbers there for what the
47 catches have been and the June fishery, this past year,
48 there were about 240,000 chums, you know, based on the
49 genetics works that have been done in the past, we guessed
50 that, you know, a little over half of them probably were

00347

1 bound to AY-K Bristol Bay area, we can't break it out too
2 much more than that for summer chums. And we know some of
3 the fish are probably being caught in the trawl fisheries
4 but I guess the one issue that we've seen as biologists,
5 the really bad returns have been spread very wide; all the
6 way from Kotzebue to Norton Sound to Kuskokwim to Yukon
7 and, you know, frankly, I guess we're missing -- compared
8 with what we've seen in past years in terms of average
9 returns, we're missing three to four million chum salmon a
10 year. And again, they're catching -- they're definitely
11 not helping things, they're catching some fish in Area M,
12 they're catching some in the trawl fishery but we're
13 missing big numbers and, you know, we've seen big changes
14 in the marine environment. You know, you mentioned the
15 seabirds, there have been problems with sea lions, you
16 know, the crabs are down, the shrimp are down. We've seen
17 real wide fluctuations in the temperature in the Bering
18 Sea, in the Gulf of Alaska. You know, they've seen strange
19 plankton blooms. There's a plankton called the
20 cocalithafor, it's kind of a milky colored plankton and
21 they had never seen the blooms before and we had blooms
22 that were so large that they covered hundreds of square
23 miles. You could see them from a satellite and they
24 blocked out light below them. So there's been a lot of
25 strange things going on in the marine environment which
26 definitely have been a serious concern. And one of the
27 problems, we're frustrated, we don't know what we do about
28 those kind of things. You know, reality is we can control
29 what fishing effort is in different places. But, you know,
30 when it comes to changes in the marine environment or
31 temperature in the Bering Sea, there's not much we can do
32 about that so it's a real struggle and a challenge.

33
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, thank you for your
35 reports. We got three resolutions now that we'd like to
36 bring up.

37
38 MR. NICHOLIA: I move that the Eastern and
39 Western Interior adopt the resolutions that the joint
40 caucus in Anchorage by Y-K, Eastern and Western, all three
41 proposals lumped into one resolution -- I mean Resolution
42 No. 1, 001, Resolution 002 and Resolution 003.

43
44 MR. FLEENER: Second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, it's been moved by
47 Gerald, seconded by Craig. We'll open up for discussion
48 now. Go ahead, Ronald.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, when we adopted these

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1 resolutions in Anchorage, we didn't want to see any changes
2 whatsoever by our perspective or respective Councils. And
3 while we do have to adopt them, I think that the State
4 wants to question or put their perspective out on our
5 resolutions. Is that true Tom?

6
7 MR. KRON: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, maybe I
8 wasn't -- I wasn't paying attention, I apologize.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: When we adopted these
11 resolutions down at Anchorage, we said we wouldn't change
12 any -- change these resolutions in any way or form because
13 we want to show unity on these resolutions. And it's quite
14 apparent now that we'll be the first to adopt these
15 resolutions. And according to Keith, you wanted to put in
16 your perspective on these resolutions.

17
18 MR. SCHULTZ: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I guess I
19 can add a couple comments. And I can address Resolution 01
20 first and we can actually step through and add comments --
21 I can go 002 next and 003. But starting with 01,
22 basically, you know, supporting studies is a good thing,
23 we're not -- you know, the intent of a resolution to
24 support studies is a good things. There's some comments
25 within the resolutions that we don't necessarily agree with
26 and one of them is just the way that they're more or less
27 worded. But if you look at Resolution 01, towards the
28 bottom, it'd be the whereas all three RACs believe that,
29 and have confirmation of State and fisheries biologist the
30 decline is not due to in-river subsistence, commercial or
31 sport recreational use on the Yukon or Kuskokwim River.
32 And although you've heard us state that, you know, it is
33 pointing towards the poor production, it's pointing towards
34 what we believe would probably be the more marine
35 environment. These interception fisheries and also the
36 harvest within the Yukon River is not necessarily helping
37 the situation. I mean the object is to get fish on the
38 spawning grounds. And we're harvesting fish that would be
39 bound for the spawning grounds.

40
41 So this statement is more infinitive than we'd
42 probably state. I won't speak for the Federal biologists
43 but I'm speaking for the State biologists.

44
45 The second whereas, where it goes all three RACs
46 find that the problem is not within the river system, it is
47 in the take by the distance marine intercept fisheries as
48 salmon. I believe we've addressed that issue, too,
49 earlier, in that, again, those fisheries are harvesting
50 fish bound for the Yukon River but the amount of fish that

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1 we're missing, those fisheries aren't helping the
2 situation, but the amount of fish that we're missing,
3 that's probably not the only reason we're not seeing our
4 fish coming back.

5
6 So it's those two comments concerning that
7 resolution. And I believe that those comments were made
8 while you guys were drafting it down in Anchorage also.

9
10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, go ahead, Gerald.

11
12 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, we stated in Anchorage
13 that we were not going to change these resolutions in no
14 way or form so that we could have a unity within these
15 three Councils, the Eastern, Western and Y-K, and I believe
16 that's -- this is a good start for us to be working
17 together as a riverwide, drainagewide Councils. And even
18 if you don't like it, we're still going to adopt and I call
19 for question.

20
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Question's been
22 called for Resolution No. 00-01.....

23
24 MR. GOOD: We're doing all three of them.

25
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: All three of them.

27
28 MR. GOOD: He had comments, though.

29
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, we can listen to
31 the comments, I mean that's not going to change our vote.

32
33 MR. FLEENER: But your opinion is very
34 important to us, however.

35
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, Terry.

37
38 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, we'd like to
39 have our comments on the record if.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Oh, sure, that's.....

42
43 MR. HAYNES:the Councils are not
44 going to make changes, I think it would be good for the
45 record to reflect concerns that the Department might have
46 just for future reference.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, well, we'll take
49 the comments on all three proposals before we vote.

50

00350

1 MR. SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Referring to 002. And again, the Department supports the
3 idea of studying, you know, hatcheries and the possible
4 affects that they may have on wild salmon. There's just a
5 couple comments that I had on this particular resolution
6 and again it's on the first page if you look down there
7 towards the bottom. The whereas all three RACs believe
8 that the decline is not due to in-river subsistence,
9 commercial, sport or recreational, again, the comments that
10 I made earlier on Resolution 01 applies.

11
12 And then the second resolution -- or the following
13 whereas all three RACs find the problem is not within the
14 river system, these two are the same comments I had for 01.
15 I also add the comment that this particular resolution is
16 applying to studying the impacts of hatchery that has on
17 wild fisheries, and maybe those statements don't
18 necessarily need to be in this resolution. They're kind of
19 a little bit out of place.

20
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Excuse, where is that
22 statement you're referring to again?

23
24 MR. SCHULTZ: The two whereases, they're
25 the same, almost identical from your Resolution 01. They
26 look like they were carryover whereases. And our comments
27 concerning those that I made earlier on 01 apply here to
28 the same statements in 02. And I also just kind of make a
29 comment that these two whereases may not even be in --
30 necessary in here. It's asking for a study of the impacts
31 of hatchery salmon on wild stocks and not so much attacking
32 fisheries or blaming something. It's just saying what do
33 these -- so I'm also questioning whether you even need
34 those whereases in this particular resolution.

35
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, go ahead there
37 Vince.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on those
40 wording in there, this was a collaborative effort in
41 writing this and I suppose to have the record clear on
42 that, the group that wrote this included a former Board of
43 Fisheries member, John Hanson, who served on the Board for,
44 I don't know how long, so he was involved in this in
45 addition to other caucus members so it wasn't written
46 without review of people that have had past experiences,
47 both regulatory and in commercial fishing as well as
48 subsistence.

49
50 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Go ahead, Craig.

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1 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Also,
2 I think these are -- I don't really think they need to be
3 removed. The idea here is to point out that salmon stocks
4 are in trouble. We don't think it's due to these problems,
5 we think it's due to something else and he's probably right
6 it could be removed but we've already decided we're not
7 going to remove anything. And these don't impact -- these
8 don't have a negative impact on the resolution as I see it.

9
10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Nat.

11
12 MR. GOOD: And just basically to finalize
13 that, it says that all three RACs believe and that we find
14 that, and certainly the RACs have a right to state their
15 beliefs and to provide their findings. It's as simple as
16 that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Well, we'll go
19 ahead and move on to comments on Proposal 00-03.

20
21 MR. SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
22 guess my only -- I guess one of my comments that I have on
23 Resolution 03 is, the way I'm interpreting this is to
24 opposition of hatcheries on the Yukon and Kuskokwim River
25 drainages in Alaska.

26
27 And although large scale hatcheries that produce
28 large returns would significantly impact management. It
29 would make it extremely more difficult to manage the
30 fisheries, more so than it is now. Small scale hatcheries
31 may -- is a tool that could possibly be used in certain
32 situations. And I'll -- it has been used in the past in
33 the Yukon River and I'll use the Toklat River as an
34 example. They took fry out of the Toklat River, we raised
35 them at Clear and then we released them, marked, in the
36 Toklat River and then monitored those returns coming back.
37 The way I see it, this would remove that possible tool that
38 we could use in the future.

39
40 Other possible uses for hatcheries in the future
41 could be, for example, if you have a depressed stock, you
42 might be able to have selective hatcheries, and this might
43 be a tool that you might be able to use to help bring the
44 depressed stock back or reintroduce a stock in a particular
45 area. And this particular resolution would remove that
46 possible tool, that option in the future.

47
48 And then lastly, I guess, I kind of wonder how --
49 currently there is stocking going on by hatcheries in the
50 Yukon River primarily for put and take fisheries, sport

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1 fisheries, recreational. Most of them are land-locked but,
2 you know, I could -- one could interpret that's within the
3 drainage, for example, the Chena Lakes just upstream of
4 here. It's a very large put and take fisheries. Those
5 types of fisheries do remove pressure of wild stocks.
6 They're not necess -- you know, that's a situation where if
7 we didn't have those kind of fisheries, you would have
8 increased pressure on wild stocks and possible additional
9 problems. Those are land-locks and one could interpret it
10 that that's within the drainage. But there are also, for
11 example, Piledriver Slough, located, again, upstream of
12 here of the Tanana River, another put and take fisheries
13 that, as I interpret this resolution, would not allow.
14

15 So I guess it's three things, one for possible
16 research projects, you might want to have small scale --
17 you might want future tools for depressed stocks or
18 reintroduced stocks and then I kind of wonder how this fits
19 into the current hatchery stocking program we have for put
20 and take fisheries.
21

22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.
23

24 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, if I believe this
25 correctly that these resolutions in the state of Alaska
26 would only take effect on Federal lands so there would
27 still be State lands available to do whatever those things
28 do because this is coming from a Federal body for Federal
29 subsistence reasons.
30

31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.
32

33 MR. GOOD: And another thing to consider
34 here is it does reference salmon, it was not the intent to
35 address any other fish here. Salmon are mentioned in this
36 twice. As part of our discussion, also, we felt that
37 placing this opposition there didn't say that it was
38 completely eliminated but any proposals we'd know about and
39 be able to consider before anything was done.
40

41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Craig, go ahead.
42

43 MR. FLEENER: Also the now, therefore, be
44 it resolved points out that they oppose fish hatcheries on
45 the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and it doesn't say that it
46 opposes them on lakes. Now, the title does say drainages,
47 however, the, now, therefore be it resolves do point out
48 that they're just in opposition to them on the river system
49 itself, directly on the rivers. So -- although it does
50 say, and within their entire drainages but I -- well, I

00353

1 think the intent was for on the river system because that's
2 what we've been discussing. Because the be it therefore
3 resolved also determines that the Yukon and Kuskokwim
4 salmon stocks are their highest fish priority.

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: During the discussion of
9 these resolutions during the caucus, my understanding as
10 chairing that meeting it was wild salmon stocks was the
11 highest priority. I'm not saying to change it here I'm
12 just saying that in reflection of Keith's statement that
13 there may need to be some type of stocking of wild stocks
14 to protect them, I think would fall within the intent of
15 the discussion during that meeting. It was basically
16 saying that they did not want non-wild stocks used on the
17 river through hatcheries. So again, these are -- this is a
18 joint effort here and it was agreed by all that there would
19 be no changing to keep the trust level up.

20

21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there another comment
22 by the State?

23

24 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I guess just for
25 people's information, I know that a number of the members
26 here are also on the advisors to the U.S./Canada process,
27 but the people in Canada, both government and some of the
28 tribes there, are involved in salmon restoration projects
29 up there. There's a small hatchery at Whitehorse, they
30 have egg box facilities in a number of locations. So,
31 again, this proposal references the drainage as a whole, as
32 well. And I guess for your information I wanted to make
33 sure that people were aware that there are some of these
34 kinds of activities going on in Canada, on the Yukon in
35 Canada.

36

37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, thank you. Go
38 ahead, Gerald.

39

40 MR. NICHOLIA: I don't think Alaska's
41 Federal land crosses the border.

42

43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any more
44 discussion on these three proposals? Go ahead, Raymond.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: I was wondering why wild
47 wasn't in that resolution there where it says, the
48 Kuskokwim is salmon stocks, we were talking about wild;
49 shouldn't it have been in there? Wild salmon stocks?

50

00354

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, that was
2 the intent. But we've already passed these resolutions and
3 they've been sent to every mail box up and down the river.
4 So we can't change it but it was clear in our notes and the
5 discussion in the room there, obviously it was not
6 transcribed, but the notes are typed up, partially, and
7 then they need to be summarized, it was clear it was wild
8 stocks. It's just not reflected here. And again, these
9 are resolutions that apparently are having an impact.

10
11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, I'd like to thank
12 the State for their comments and make sure that they're --
13 they'll be noted on the record.

14
15 MR. GOOD: Question.

16
17 MR. FLEENER: Question.

18
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question's been called.
20 All in favor of adopting Resolutions 01, 02 and 03 signify
21 by saying aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

26
27 (No opposing votes)

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, all three
30 resolutions pass. Go ahead.

31
32 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: The Western region passed
33 resolutions prior to these one, are we going to change
34 those numbers on those, Vince, or what are we going to do
35 with those?

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, those are totally
38 different resolutions.

39
40 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Because they have the
41 same numbers.

42
43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I'm sorry, that would be
44 joint resolutions.

45
46 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Oh, these are joint
47 resolutions?

48
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes. And maybe if the
50 record can reflect that.

00355

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ronald.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would ask Vince to direct
6 a letter to all correspondees that the salmon that we were
7 talking about in these resolutions were wild stock. And
8 while we didn't amend the resolutions to reflect that, I
9 would like to see a letter out to all the people that we
10 mailed it out to.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. If I understand it
13 correctly, all the people who were mailed the resolutions
14 from the caucus should get a letter saying it's clear it
15 was wild stock?

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: And the State agencies.

22

23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, we'll take a one
24 hour break for lunch and meet back here at 1:30.

25

26 (Off record)

27 (On record)

28

29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Ronald Sam has a couple
30 of things to bring up.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack's in the back, we got
33 five, whether they're seated or not we got a quorum.
34 First, one sad note we lost one of our Doyon shareholders
35 and elder, Taki Mayo, I would like to direct the Staff to
36 get a card or letter of condolence to the Taki Mayo family.
37 He's here in Fairbanks. While we have Glenn Stout and
38 David James available, we would like to bring up the Kaiyuh
39 Flats survey, the GASH area survey before we go too far.
40 But first I would like to recognize Ida Hildebrand, she's
41 got a statement of her position on our Koyukuk River plan.

42

43 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ida
44 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. I realize you're
45 through with your discussion on the Koyukuk River Moose
46 Management plan, I wanted to note for the record that I,
47 again, raise my opposition to any management plan that does
48 not address wolf predation and yet reduces subsistence
49 take. I just wanted to note that for the record.

50

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1 And if, with your indulgence, I would like to
2 comment on your three joint resolutions?

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that fine?

5
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes, that's fine.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

9
10 MS. HILDEBRAND: I just wanted to note for
11 the record that the comments made by ADF&G regarding your
12 three joint resolutions were comments that were raised
13 during the work group discussion that drafted those
14 resolutions. And I, again, wanted to note that for the
15 record.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Jack.

18
19 MR. REAKOFF: Ida, do you think that it
20 would be appropriate to endorse the Moose Hunters Working
21 plan and specifically note that the plan requests intensive
22 management, that includes wolf control?

23
24 MS. HILDEBRAND: I believe your discussion
25 in the record shows your concern but I wanted to
26 specifically note that there is a problem when you cut back
27 subsistence use and you don't do anything about predation.
28 But if you wanted to add to the record that the intent of
29 the plan is intensive management, which would, in the
30 future, address wolf control I think would be of benefit to
31 your record but not to me, personally, but yes.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else.

34
35 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to make a motion to
36 read into the record, that under our deliberations over the
37 draft Koyukuk River Moose Management plan, that we agree
38 with the predator control measures that are necessary to
39 help alleviate the decline of this moose population.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

42
43 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion. If
46 not, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

00357

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries.

4

5 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Craig.

8

9 MR. FLEENER: Along those same lines I
10 wonder if it would be smart for the Councils to not only
11 talk just about that moose management plan but why not
12 management of our resources in general? Why should we wait
13 until we've exhausted everything else or why should we just
14 completely ignore a management tool that we used to have
15 available to us and cut subsistence off. Subsistence is
16 supposed to be the priority. We should probably address
17 that on a statewide basis, that we need to look at all
18 these management tools that should be made available to us
19 before we cut subsistence down or cut it off. And that
20 seems like it would be very appropriate to extend what Jack
21 just said to the entire state.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: I just need a clarification.
26 I took the vote as being just Western Interior because it
27 was Western Interior action; is that correct? I mean I
28 would assume that's it, so there was five members present
29 for the vote, is the way I'm recording that, just so I'm
30 clear.

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: I would request Mr. Fleener
37 to make a joint motion to address his issue.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

40

41 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make a
42 motion that both Councils here support -- I have to think
43 about it a while, but at least the concept of exhausting
44 all management options to include predator management
45 before we decide that we're going to reduce or eliminate
46 subsistence take of resources.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that fine, Jack?

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, something like that.

00358

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a motion?

2
3 MR. FLEENER: Yes.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

6
7 MR. NICHOLIA: Right here.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, as your
12 coordinator, we've done this extensively with Eastern
13 Interior, I just need to advise you the policy of the
14 Federal Subsistence Board is not to manage one species for
15 the benefit of another species that has subsistence use.
16 And if that doesn't make sense I can explain that, but I
17 just want to get it on the record that you've been advised
18 of the policy of the Board.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Craig.

21
22 MR. FLEENER: I'd like to point out that
23 that's a policy that they have but that's not necessarily
24 the case because we manage wildlife for the benefit of the
25 human species. And so to say that we're not managing for
26 the benefit of another species is kind of -- it's not the
27 truth.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that clear?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: I got it.

32
33 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to speak to that.
38 It's recognized in the ANILCA language that the subsistence
39 users are part of the ecosystem.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further discussion.

42
43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called. All
46 those in favor signify by saying aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those opposed same sign.

00359

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. The first
4 two items that we'd like to introduce are the Kaiyuh Flats
5 survey, the GASH area survey while we have Staff here. I
6 see Glenn Stout and David James, is he still around?

7

8 If I'm not mistaken, these are just addressing our
9 pleas for surveys in these areas. I was hoping Micky would
10 be here.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I can give you
13 clarification on the Kaiyuh Flats one, and if Pete's around
14 he can fill in the gaps. There was a proposal back a while
15 ago, I think it was last cycle, that requests a closure of
16 the northern portion of the Innoko Refuge which is the
17 Kaiyuh Flats. The Board deferred action on that to allow
18 more time between the land manager, the wildlife manager
19 and the users to workout a solution, I gather. And so
20 we've been keeping it on the agenda so we could get an
21 update because during that time of deferral it was talked
22 about a more intensive look at the area by the land manager
23 and the wildlife manager is the way I understood it. So
24 this is a summary of what has transpired in that time
25 period.

26

27 We need to kind of have Micky here since he's the
28 representative from there. Of course, Benedict is here,
29 too, and he could share. Both are close to the area --
30 okay, Micky's here. Because that was Micky's proposal that
31 was submitted to close the northern portion of the Innoko.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

34

35 MR. D. JAMES: Mr. Chair, David James.
36 I'll go ahead, if it's all right with you, and address,
37 briefly, the GASH information first. I was not part of the
38 survey so what I'm going to tell you here was relayed to me
39 by voice mail on my phone and by fax from Toby Boudreau,
40 the area biologist in McGrath.

41

42 They just finished an extensive survey in Unit
43 21(E) of about 5,000 square miles. During that survey they
44 counted 2,475 moose, 16 percent which were calves. When
45 they did a preliminary analysis of that data, run the
46 statistics on it, in other words to generate an estimate
47 for the entire area, it comes out to about 5,100 moose and
48 17 percent calves. So that comes out roughly to a moose
49 per square mile, and as you know there are many places in
50 the Interior that if we were up to one moose per square

00360

1 mile there'd be a lot of happy faces. That's basically all
2 I have to say right now except that I want to emphasize
3 that that's preliminary and the final analysis will be out
4 within a few more days.

5
6 I'd be glad to entertain any questions or comments
7 but don't get your hopes up because I have very limited
8 information on this at this time.

9
10 MR. COLLINS: Was there any note of wolf
11 numbers or wolf activity during that time?

12
13 MR. D. JAMES: I'm sure they do have that,
14 Mr. Collins, but I don't have that with me right now.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else, other
17 questions you wanted to -- Angie.

18
19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: No, I don't. I just
20 wonder how he gets those high numbers when there's big
21 areas where there's nothing. Between Grayling and Anvik
22 there's not even a moose to be had or seen. My brother
23 flies a plane so he's looking all the time because, you
24 know, we had our February hunt, he says to me, he lives up
25 -- I may have to come down to Holy Cross to get moose,
26 there's none up where I live.

27
28 MR. D. JAMES: Ms. Demientieff, I'm not
29 sure what the boundaries of the survey are since I don't
30 have a map in front of me. But what Toby did say was, you
31 know, consistent with what you've just said. He says there
32 are very large areas with hardly any moose whatsoever, and,
33 of course, especially this time of year, they're very
34 concentrated. Almost all moose they saw were on the Yukon
35 River. And there are, like you say, large areas with not
36 much in it.

37
38 MR. COLLINS: One more question. Have you
39 given any consideration to developing a planning team or
40 planning effort for the area or do you feel it's warranted
41 at this time? Something like the Kaiyuh, to look at the
42 whole scheme with all of the players and so on?

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: You mean the Koyukuk?

45
46 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, like the Koyukuk, down
47 in the GASH area down there. I know there's concern with
48 growing hunting numbers and any thoughts on that?

49
50 MR. D. JAMES: Well, I could share with you

00361

1 a few preliminary thoughts. Assuming now that the Koyukuk
2 planning effort doesn't require as much time as it has,
3 which is what our plan is, we are going to be looking at
4 the allocation of our planning resources, which is
5 primarily Randy's time and some operational costs. And
6 we're going to be looking across the region and
7 prioritizing and see where we can most effectively put our
8 effort. That part of our region, that whole area, whether
9 it's the Kuskokwim or that portion of the Yukon is
10 certainly a concern. It seems like it generates its share
11 of various proposals from one Board meeting to the next.
12 And we do have a great deal more analysis that we want to
13 do.

14
15 Primarily as a result of this survey and our need
16 to better understand harvest out there and our harvest
17 reporting information is something that has us very
18 concerned at this point. And we're going to be engaged in
19 extensive dialogue with the communities and representative
20 organizations out there on ideas how to address that
21 problem. Now, that, in turn, may or may not develop into
22 a, you know, a formal planning effort but it's certainly
23 worth talking about. We'll be considering it.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we feel a letter at this
26 time would -- do you think a letter from the Western
27 Interior at this time would help you form a committee or
28 similar to the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working group to
29 be formed for the GASH area? Let's keep it on record that
30 we are looking forward to it.

31
32 MR. D. JAMES: We always appreciate letters
33 of declaration, you know, what the concerns are in a
34 specific area. They certainly don't hurt and frequently
35 they do help.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Do you think we could
38 draft a letter?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. You've
41 been on record through several annual reports saying the
42 same thing.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: So just to make a mental
47 note, yes, you would like a letter sent to the Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game, copied to the Board of Game
49 and copied to the Federal Subsistence Board that you would
50 support and request a planning effort be established for

00362

1 the GASH area. And then I'll try to find in the records
2 what you've done in the annual reports. But it's been
3 clear throughout that your discussions that you were
4 looking and working hard on the Koyukuk but looking over
5 the hill at the GASH area at the same time. We just didn't
6 have the nucleolus or catalyst that the State provided with
7 their planning effort to get that to fruit. So now maybe
8 this is the time that there may be a catalyst; it may not
9 be the State it may be whoever, but it could be the State.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry, there's a microphone
12 over there.

13
14 MR. DEACON: I'm kind of lost here, is this
15 Innoko Refuge report?

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, we're just covering that
18 survey -- he covered, briefly, the survey of the GASH area.
19 Could you restate what areas we covered?

20
21 MR. D. JAMES: Yes. Mr. Deacon, this was
22 the survey that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game just
23 finished last Saturday. And this was the preliminary
24 information that Tony Boudreau has sent to me so that I
25 could share it with this group.

26
27 MR. DEACON: That's on Federal land or
28 State land?

29
30 MR. D. JAMES: Some of it was -- it was
31 both, State and Federal, but very little of it was on the
32 Innoko Refuge, just a tiny portion of it, the southern end
33 of Innoko.

34
35 MR. DEACON: See that's the concern we have
36 in our villages. That moose population and Refuge land is
37 decreasing very hard and those moose are mostly around Holy
38 Cross area now for some reason, they're migrating down.
39 Because I just got a phone call from home a couple days ago
40 describing how the moose population is around Mt. Iditarod
41 and that area. There is no moose around there, not like it
42 used to be last year. So those are the concerns that we
43 want to know more about and how come you got so much -- so
44 a big a figure on moose population in that area. You know,
45 that should be checked over again. Because we're really
46 concerned about that. We do try to pass resolutions and
47 proposals through last fall, I don't see the Innoko River
48 Refuge stuff, you know, so those are the stuff I like to
49 know because I represent that area.

50

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1 MR. D. JAMES: I appreciate your expression
2 of concern. There's new Refuge management there for the
3 Innoko Refuge and I look forward to being able to cooperate
4 on moose surveys, especially, like we've been able to do
5 successfully in other areas. I can't make any promises at
6 this point but I think our record demonstrates we've worked
7 very successfully with Kanuti and the Koyukuk Refuge, for
8 instance, and I look forward to being able to do that
9 someday with the Innoko Refuge as well. Thus far there
10 have been some differences of opinion on how to approach
11 counting moose to be quite honest about it, and until we
12 can get that ironed out and when we do, I should say, I
13 think we'll be able to provide a much better service for
14 the public out there.

15
16 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I believe we
17 have a representative from Innoko here and I think you're
18 planning a moose survey in the area, could you maybe state
19 what your plan is, Laura.

20
21 MS. REID: Laura Reid, assistant manager at
22 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. And we are planning a
23 moose survey starting March 12th and it will go for about a
24 week. And the last survey we ran, it was in '98, and there
25 was about -- we counted 4,500 moose after we did our
26 statistical analysis of the data. And so we plan on doing
27 another survey and unfortunately I won't have that
28 information until probably the next meeting.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: Would it get down towards the
31 GASH area, the whole Refuge you're trying to count or the
32 whole area?

33
34 MS. REID: We're doing the southern half of
35 the Refuge which is the mouth of the Iditarod south, so,
36 yes, it would go into that area. So at the next meeting
37 I'll have that information but I will also be happy to
38 route it to Henry once we finish the analysis of the data
39 after March so you'll know what the moose numbers are now.

40
41 MR. DEACON: Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. If
44 not, we'll ask Glenn to go into the Kaiyuh Flats area.

45
46 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What
47 I have here is some surveys that were done cooperatively
48 with the Fish and Wildlife Service there in Galena, the
49 Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, they manage the northern
50 Innoko portion there.

00364

1 The surveys that we did this past November at the
2 end of November, we didn't have ideal conditions, we didn't
3 have snow early so we, basically, before moose started
4 dropping their antlers we wanted to get our counts in
5 before we started losing our light, our ability to classify
6 would decrease. So these are the results that we got.

7
8 On the combined units, the Pilot Mountain Slough,
9 Squirrel Creek moose trend count areas, this year we
10 counted 489 moose on a 95.6 square mile area, the two areas
11 combined. And that gave us a density of 5.12 moose per
12 square mile. And this is down slightly from the year
13 before where it was 6.06 per square mile. The year before
14 that was 4.94. And looking at these numbers from what they
15 have, it looks to be like those trend count areas are
16 fairly stable. Probably our ability to measure there
17 associated with that accounts for that difference in those
18 numbers.

19
20 On the Kaiyuh Slough trend count area we did a 64.3
21 square mile area and we counted 123 moose and that gave us
22 a density of 1.91 moose per square mile compared to last
23 year there was 2.69 so down slightly there as well. And
24 once again I'll just qualify these as saying that we know
25 that snow depth does have an influence on the distribution
26 and the effect of these densities.

27
28 One thing of notice that we saw pretty much
29 throughout this lower end of 21(D) and on up into the
30 Koyukuk was our calf numbers. On the Pilot Mountain Slough
31 Squirrel Creek area there, calf numbers were pretty much
32 where they have been over the last several years there,
33 about 30 calves per 100 cows. But down on Kaiyuh Slough we
34 were down to 22. Looking more like we were starting to get
35 up on the upper -- or the lower Koyukuk portions there on
36 the northern part of 21(D). One thing that maybe I should
37 mention, too, as far as all the surveys that we're seeing
38 this year, is that, these calf numbers and the yearling
39 recruitment numbers are down and I don't think -- I think
40 it's pretty clear that they reflect concerns about
41 increasing predation versus human harvest.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Glenn. Go
44 ahead, Benedict.

45
46 MR. JONES: On your predation we notice
47 that the wolf packs are staying south of the Pilot Mountain
48 down at the Kaiyuh Flats and they don't come over to the
49 Yukon area, so is that high impact on the moose in that
50 area?

00365

1 MR. STOUT: I think that very well could be
2 because the human population there may be keeping the
3 numbers down maybe a little bit more pressure up and down
4 the Yukon there. I think that very well could be.

5
6 Now, one thing I should say on our fall surveys, we
7 did see several packs and we saw several large packs. I
8 think it was pretty typical for us to see packs of 14, 15
9 wolves in a pack. Up on Three Day Slough we saw a pack of
10 21, one pack of 18, and over on the Nowitna, a little
11 further away we saw a pack of 25. So we were seeing large
12 packs, you know, and I think that's consistent.

13
14 MR. JONES: Yeah, the reason I brought up
15 that question is that because we noticed that from pilot's
16 reports, the wolves they had saw at Pilot Mountain down to
17 the area, there's lakes that's connected in that area to
18 Kaiyuh Flats and all the way down to Kaltag.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. Did
21 you have anything else, Micky?

22
23 MR. STICKMAN: I just wanted to thank Glenn
24 for his information. He actually answered the question
25 that I had to find out how the moose was doing. And I know
26 the wolf packs are really big there. So I have questions
27 for Gene Williams, though, he's the Refuge manager.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gene, could you take the
30 table. Go ahead, Micky.

31
32 MR. STICKMAN: I was wondering with the
33 spillover of hunters that we expect from the restrictions
34 that we're going to be putting on the Koyukuk River, I was
35 wondering if the Refuge -- if your Refuge staff was
36 prepared for that kind of reaction.

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, Gene Williams the
39 manager of the Upper Innoko Refuge. In response to Mr.
40 Stickman's question and concerns expressed by this Council
41 at earlier meetings, about the possibility of increase in
42 use of the Kaiyuh Flats area by non-local hunters, we
43 expressed a willingness to do some aerial reconnaissance
44 during this past fall moose season. And on three different
45 afternoons we did a very thorough survey of the area
46 looking for aircraft, hunter camps supported by aircraft
47 and boat traffic and on those three occasions we saw no
48 aircraft, no hunter camps supported by aircraft and very
49 few boats in the Kaiyuh Sough area. But it must be noted
50 that water conditions were very low out there this past

00366

1 fall which we suspect did limit boat access to the area.

2

3 Yes, I concur with Mr. Stickman's concerns that as
4 restrictions are put in place upstream on the Koyukuk
5 River, we can anticipate increased use of other surrounding
6 areas.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.

9

10 MR. STICKMAN: And with the wolf packs
11 getting bigger and the moose population declining, are you
12 guys going to be putting predator control into place soon?

13

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Predator control on National
15 Wildlife Refuges would require a very broad in-depth
16 review. The public input would extend beyond the
17 boundaries of Alaska. There would need to be a biological
18 crises of sorts. We would need to demonstrate for the
19 record that we've tried a number of other things before we
20 go to predator control. We would also need to be talking
21 about bears and their role as predators on moose as well.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

24

25 MR. STICKMAN: No.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think it behooves all of
28 us to watch -- what's that predator control proposal that
29 was introduced by McGrath, do you know, I mean what's the
30 proposal number? Well, there is one being introduced by
31 the McGrath community, do you remember it off hand, Glenn?
32 I think we should all watch that because it will have great
33 impact on all of our areas.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: The Board already approved
36 the plan, it's been held on hold by the Governor.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, okay. So let's get all
39 the correspondence and communications out on this to keep
40 everybody updated. Anything further on the Kaiyuh?

41

42 MR. STICKMAN: I think there's a proposal
43 from the Middle Yukon to the State Board of Game for a
44 controlled use area, if I remember correctly.

45

46 MR. STOUT: Did you want me to address
47 that?

48

49 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, that came from the
50 Middle Yukon Advisory Committee.

1 MR. STOUT: That's Proposal 113, the State
2 proposal. And that came out of the -- it was a joint
3 proposal from the Middle Yukon/Koyukuk River Advisory
4 Committee meeting last fall and it was to establish a
5 Kaiyuh controlled use area from the Yukon River to the
6 Kaiyuh hills, including the Upper Innoko Wildlife Refuge.
7 And what I'll do is I'll just address the State's
8 perspective on this. And we've talked about this, most
9 recently with the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee.

10
11 In the proposal, the issue stated was increasing
12 airborne hunting pressure on Kaiyuh Flats, increasing
13 hunting pressure and illegal guiding operations on the
14 Kaiyuh Flats via the Upper Innoko Wildlife Refuge on a
15 fragile moose population, was the issue. And the State's
16 response at this point is, we have no evidence of local
17 subsistence hunter displacement. The data from '93 through
18 1998 demonstrates that the number of non-local hunters are
19 not increasing and are relatively small. And in the table
20 we present, the number of non-local hunters that were
21 successful was 19, the number of unsuccessful non-local
22 hunters was three, and so this is our reported harvest
23 data, of course, from our non-locals, so it remains very
24 low. Looking at the hunter representation and success rate
25 of the locals, local hunters are averaging 20 to 25 and
26 success rate is hovering around 53 to 70 percent success
27 rate and it's not declining.

28
29 Secondly, increased hunting pressure is a concern
30 among local hunters as this proposal identifies, by closing
31 the Kaiyuh Flats area, the proposal has a potential
32 inadvertent effect displacing hunters in the Koyukuk
33 drainage where an increase of hunters is equally
34 undesirable among the local hunters.

35
36 Third, we don't have available to support the
37 contention that the Kaiyuh Flats moose area is more less
38 fragile than any other moose population. Most importantly,
39 the Department is not aware of any information that
40 suggests hunting of any kind is impacting moose population
41 currently.

42
43 And finally, as far as the Kaiyuh controlled use
44 area proposal, we don't feel like it would address the
45 problem if we did have all of a sudden a flood of the
46 hunters out of the Koyukuk controlled use area because
47 those are primarily boat hunters at this point. They
48 aren't fly-in hunters. And so having a no-fly controlled
49 use area would be relatively ineffective at restricting
50 those same boat hunters.

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1 So that's our perspective right now.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Anything
4 further. Vince, does that conclude our concerns about GASH
5 area and Kaiyuh? I think that was -- was that all we
6 wanted was information? Jack and then Micky.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to make one
9 statement in regards to the winter survey techniques that
10 are used by the refuges and ADF&G. For somebody who reads
11 these reviews, I would like to see coordination of a --
12 like a standardization of portrayal and methodologies, you
13 know, how the census are done, you know, and a little more
14 consistency so that the information is applicable from
15 both, you know, and all of them work towards the same
16 objective. And if they're joint then, you know, joint
17 project then that's fine but sometimes there's two
18 different studies and they are portrayed two different
19 ways, you know, information.

20

21 MR. STOUT: I guess I would just say in
22 regards to that that we've been working with Gene and his
23 people there at the Refuge and with the people at Kanuti
24 Refuge and I feel like we've just been real successful in
25 developing coordinated efforts in that respect.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: I'm not saying that it's
28 occurring right now but I mean on various different -- you
29 know, like wolf censusing techniques, I've seen differences
30 there from year to year and I would like to see a little
31 more standardization of how those techniques are done and
32 portrayed, you know. That's mainly what I'm talking about.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: Jack, the efforts, to-date,
35 out of Galena, we have worked cooperatively with Fish and
36 Game and we actually put our resources together. We use
37 the same methodology. I'm not aware of any studies in the
38 past where we've gone our separate ways, in a sense, and
39 done it differently.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: Well, there has been slight
42 differences between like the way Kanuti's done some wolf,
43 you know, like mortality type things, differences between
44 the way the State has done it. I've seen that. So I mean
45 I'm just saying, you know, it's just input, take it or
46 leave it.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

49

50 MR. STICKMAN: Let's see, I was just

00369

1 thinking, well, even though they said that there was no
2 impact, the impact is just relatively new. It's just only
3 within the last couple of years. And you know, to get that
4 kind of information you'd have to go to Nulato and Kaltag
5 and talk to the people who do hunt in the Kaiyuh Flats.
6 There is air transporters with permits to hunt in the
7 Kaiyuh Flats and there's at least five air carriers that
8 have -- or air transporters who have permits to hunt in the
9 Kaiyuh Flats and we feel that those are the people who are
10 affecting the Slough, you know, keeping the moose away from
11 the Slough. That's why we proposed a controlled use area is
12 because of we do feel that there is impact there and Gene
13 did tell us one time that he had -- there's no limit to the
14 number of permits that he can pass out. You know, if
15 there's no limit, you know, things can get out of control.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gene.

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: The Refuge currently
20 licenses up to seven air taxi operators who are authorized
21 to utilize Federal lands in the Kaiyuh Slough. But as a
22 rule, I can't say there are no exceptions, those air taxi
23 operators are aware that the moose densities are to the
24 north and northwest. They take their clients to the
25 northwest, to the areas west of the Koyukuk River
26 controlled use area.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further on Kaiyuh
29 Flats. Anything further. Did we have to address any
30 certain issues?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: No.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

35

36 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Chuck.

39

40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, before we get
41 started on the fishery proposals, I'd like to bring up this
42 letter that George drafted up for the Eastern and Western
43 Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. And it's
44 addressed to the Board of Game, would you like to go
45 through these, George?

46

47 MR. SHERROD: I just assumed if anyone -- I
48 just as soon people look at it and if they have any
49 objections I'll make the changes now otherwise I'll go
50 print off a final copy for your signatures.

00370

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Has everybody had a
2 chance to look this document over? I guess, are we all in
3 agreement with the wording of this document?

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: I am.

6
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, I guess it's good
8 as is, George.

9
10 MR. SHERROD: Okay, Mr. Chair, I'll go
11 print off a copy and get it back here. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, George. Okay,
14 moving down to call for Federal Subsistence Fisheries
15 proposals. Vince.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as you
18 know we have a cycle of fisheries and we have a cycle of
19 wildlife. Right now the cycle in fisheries is you're
20 within the period of time to submit proposals to address
21 subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands. You could
22 ask if there are any proposals that members have. I know
23 that you personally have asked Staff to draft one up that
24 you'd probably want be brought up to, I think your Council
25 or both Councils, I'm not sure.

26
27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Both councils.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Both Councils. So there may
30 be others that want proposals. Generally, over time, you
31 guys have preferred proposals to come up from the villages
32 themselves but you both have had a pattern of writing your
33 own proposals, too, so I don't want to discourage you on
34 that.

35
36 I will ask, on the record, if there's any Staff
37 that know of proposals that have been submitted to-date
38 that address Interior? I have not received any notice of
39 that. No one seems to know. There are probably are some
40 and then, of course, you'll be getting those in the mail,
41 another book in the mail, and then at the fall meeting
42 you'll be taking those up to pass recommendation. So this
43 summer you'll need to review those proposals and we'll have
44 analysis this fall on it.

45
46 So with that, probably just open the floor up to
47 see if there's any other proposals.

48
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Is there any other
50 fisheries proposals, either from individuals or from the

00371

1 Board? Okay, go ahead, Benedict.

2

3 MR. JONES: Yeah, on the State side of --
4 or last week we proposed that driftnetting be extended from
5 Cone Point to Yuki, Mt. Yuki, this would give access for
6 the Galena residents to harvest subsistence fish,
7 especially the kings and fall chums. And for further
8 information for the Upper Yukon, we do not intercept your
9 fish we only intercept Tanana River bound fish when we're
10 seining. Because I noticed I was take a study with a fish
11 finder several years ago that Canadian bound fish were 20
12 feet below the surface and we could not intercept unless we
13 have a 30 foot dipnet, we only use eight foot dip, so we're
14 not intercepting your fish. So for the purpose of that on
15 the State side we put in a proposal to the Game Board to
16 extend that fisheries driftnetting to benefit for the
17 Galena area. The reason behind that is we want -- the
18 people from Galena have to travel all the way down and the
19 cost -- it's more economical for them to fish in the local
20 area because of the gas and the travel time. It takes two
21 hours to transport the fish back from Koyukuk to Galena.
22 And sometimes you get a hot day and you get back to Galena
23 your fish will be cooking by that time.

24

25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Benedict.

26 Gerald.

27

28 MR. NICHOLIA: I just wanted to add
29 something to Benedict's proposal to the State, it's not
30 only Galena, there's Ruby people and I know of a couple
31 friends from here that go all the way down from Fairbanks,
32 just to seine in that area so it would help a lot of people
33 along the river.

34

35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I guess I had a question
36 for Benedict then, do you want to put this in as a Federal
37 proposal also?

38

39 MR. JONES: Yes, we do.

40

41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Maybe you could
42 get with Staff to try and word something real quick.

43

44 MR. JONES: We did on the State side,
45 Koyukuk Tribal Council and Galena Tribal Council drafted a
46 resolution and now they're working on a petition from the
47 Galena residents to introduce this resolution to -- Galena
48 and the residents in the cities.

49

50 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, maybe Ida can

00372

1 clarify this for me.

2

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
4 Committee member. You stated that there was a call for
5 proposals and what Mr. Jones is referring to is a proposal
6 they submitted to the State Board of Fish. The waters that
7 he's talking about are State waters.

8

9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Oh, okay.

10

11 MS. HILDEBRAND: And what you are calling
12 for are Federal proposals.

13

14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

15

16 MR. D. JAMES: Chuck.

17

18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes, go ahead, David.

19

20 MR. D. JAMES: I didn't know we were
21 bringing up proposals, fishery proposals here at this
22 meeting here. But would this be the right time to bring up
23 allocation?

24

25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Vince.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Before we get to that, are we
28 sure that the area that Benedict was talking about does not
29 include the northern portion of the Innoko Refuge? Because
30 the adjoining waters to the northern portion of the Innoko
31 Refuge would fall underneath this program unless I
32 misinterpreted it. So I think we need to get a Staff
33 person with Benedict to find out where this is and see if
34 there is any Federal land and then see if he still wants to
35 continue to do it. Am I the Staff person?

36

37 MR. FLEENER: You're the man.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Yes, on allocation
40 and et cetera, this is a whole new world, I would assume
41 that that would be allowable underneath proposals to
42 address allocation of fish. You'd be starting the process
43 off on that. So, yes, I think we have -- Mr. Ginnis would
44 like to speak on that and I think there's some others that
45 would like to speak on that. I'll need to consult with
46 other Staff how we'd handle it but let's just let the
47 discussion go and see if there's proposals that can come
48 out of it. It's a new world for me so we'll have to work
49 it out with the Staff to see how we would put this
50 together.

00373

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. I'll ask President
2 Ginnis to come up to the table then.

3
4 MR. GINNIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
5 guess I, you know, I just kind of came in here and you
6 folks are talking about fisheries and I just raise the
7 question about allocation of fish. Just to give you some
8 background, you know, I've had the opportunity of serving
9 on the YRDFA Board, and not only that but on the on
10 USA/Canada negotiations on fish. And I was always was
11 concerned about the allocation of fish up in the upper
12 part of the Yukon River, and I think Davey was going to
13 address that as well.

14
15 And we have made some attempts to try to address
16 that through the Boar of Fisheries. And unfortunately our
17 proposals didn't go very far, who knows for what reasons.
18 But I just thought that since the Feds have taken over
19 fisheries this would be the appropriate place to address
20 that. I know that Vince, it's probably kind of a new area
21 for you, I didn't intend to spring this on you here. But I
22 think it's something as Board members here you need to take
23 a look at just the whole issue of the fisheries. I mean
24 it's now part of your charge they way I understand it. I
25 guess you need to think about how to deal with proposals as
26 they come before you.

27
28 I would just like to say on behalf of the upper
29 part of the Yukon River that there is really a need to
30 review these allocations of fish. I know that it doesn't
31 set well with some people, but, you know, if not then I
32 guess the other way to address allocation would be like
33 what I've been advocating for quite some time, is to
34 advance, I guess, a separate management plan for that
35 portion of the river where it breaks off above Tanana and
36 goes all the way up to Eagle. You know, that thought we
37 have kind of been bouncing around to kind of get the State
38 to address the allocation issue. Our rationale is that,
39 you know, up on that part of the river, we're primarily
40 subsistence users. Although we have some commercial
41 interests on that portion of the river, I don't think it's
42 that much -- it's not that significant. So when you look
43 at it from that perspective then, you know, I'm looking at
44 trying to put more fish on our table.

45
46 I don't have a proposal to present to you here but
47 I'm just raising this issue because, you know, you have the
48 charge to deal with this now. And I'm sure you're going to
49 have to start thinking about some sort of a system that
50 will allow us to present proposals to you, some time frames

00374

1 to address those. I don't know where they would go beyond
2 that, I guess to the Federal Subsistence Board, I don't
3 know. But you know, I just wanted to bring this issue to
4 you. I know Davey will probably have more on this, he's
5 probably more active in it than I am right now. But in the
6 past, like I said, we tried to address that through the
7 YRDFA, through a resolution from the Native village of Fort
8 Yukon. Last year it wasn't resolved, it was brought to
9 their attention and they were going to work something out
10 with the Native village of Fort Yukon but it never occurred
11 as far as I know. So now it's in your hands and I guess,
12 Vince, I don't know you need to discuss some kind of a
13 system here as to how these things are to be addressed.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Steve. Go
18 ahead, Ronald.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, if I
21 read this right, we're just putting out a call for
22 subsistence fisheries proposals, right?

23
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Point of order.

27
28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: When would these
29 proposals be due, Vince?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: The cutoff date is March
32 28th, correct?

33
34 MR. JENNINGS: 27th.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, 27th.

37
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So that's almost a month
39 then to get proposals in?

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Right, it was
42 announced in January that it opened up, I think it was
43 January 4th. But you can submit proposals, I didn't mean
44 to deter you from submitting proposals. What I was
45 uncomfortable with is how do we incorporate allocation into
46 proposals. But let's worry about finding out what you need
47 first and then we can get it in there, so I don't want to
48 deter that.

49
50 This is the time to do this. If the group wants to

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1 it or if you want to have individuals or other groups
2 submit them and then you respond to them at your fall
3 meeting.

4
5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Gerald, you had a
6 comment.

7
8 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, just to respond to
9 Steve, is that, I met with YRDFA in Alakanuk last year and
10 why we met, one of the reasons is YRDFA is meeting in Fort
11 Yukon is to address those proposals but they didn't have
12 enough input so that's the reason they're meeting in Fort
13 Yukon. And another thing I wanted to tell him is that all
14 three Councils along the Yukon River, the Y-K, Eastern and
15 Western are working together to address these allocation
16 problems along the Yukon.

17
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Steve.

19
20 MR. GINNIS: Yeah, I guess I have a
21 question for Vince. I understand what you're saying but I
22 guess what I'm -- there's a little confusion here. And I
23 think when I was on this Board we were trying to -- we were
24 wrestling with the idea of serving as the -- kind of like a
25 YRDFA Board, if you recall that.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

28
29 MR. GINNIS: And I don't know what ever
30 became of that. Is that YRDFA Board still recognized as
31 the entity that we would have to deal with when we're
32 talking about allocation or is it through this group --
33 this group is now that group?

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: If I may respond, Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: It's both. The three
40 Councils that Gerald talked about there, the Yukon-
41 Kuskokwim, Eastern and Western have formulated and
42 established a Coordinating Council, two members from each
43 of the Councils across the whole drainage will meet and
44 look at proposals for ones that overlap and et cetera, and
45 see where that can work out and then report back to their
46 respective Councils, Eastern, Western and Y-K to discuss
47 different issues. So you would have to, in a way, report
48 to both on allocation. Because YRDFA mainly works for the
49 Board of Fisheries presently. So that, I think what you're
50 getting at is there was a request a few years ago that

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1 YRDFA would become the 11th Regional Council or something
2 like that.

3
4 MR. GINNIS: Yes.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: That no longer is an option
7 at this time. It's off the table because they did not want
8 to give up their ability to appoint their own members, the
9 Secretary appoints Federal members. So YRDFA as the 11th
10 Regional Council is not -- it's gone.

11
12 MR. GINNIS: Okay, thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Steve.

15
16 MR. D. JAMES: Chuck.

17
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Davey.

19
20 MR. D. JAMES: On this allocation issue
21 there, I have my differences with Yukon River Drainage
22 Association, and I'm going to bring that up when they're up
23 there. Because for our people in the Yukon Flats, the
24 tribal people, the tribal people are the ones that should
25 select who they want to represent them and they shouldn't
26 be forced to buy a \$2 ticket to be a member with fisheries,
27 with processors, you're just taking away their tribal
28 subsistence rights bringing a pot of pans, but anyway,
29 that's my opinion, and I'll bring that up.

30
31 But the issue, allocation, we're having a tribal
32 fishery workshop in Fort Yukon next week, three days. We
33 can bring that forward, does the Council want to wait or
34 it's up to the Council? We can still bring it up on the
35 table now and begin the process somehow.

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You mean for the
38 allocation?

39
40 MR. D. JAMES: Uh-huh.

41
42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I don't know if there's
43 any proposals or anything put together dealing with
44 allocation. Would we have to start one? Okay, go ahead,
45 Jerry.

46
47 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Excuse me, could I get
50 you to state your name and stuff for Tina please.

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1 MR. BERG: Jerry Berg with the Office of
2 Subsistence Management. You know, I guess this also gets
3 back to us being short-staffed and not having all the
4 details worked out. But I think, in general, I can respond
5 to say that it is in our regulations that we're going to
6 review the management plans that the State currently has in
7 effect. And I guess if there's comments from the public or
8 from the Councils that we need to make adjustments to some
9 of those management plans that will eventually be adopted
10 into the Federal program then we would do that at that
11 time. But there certainly will be opportunities for the
12 Council to comment on that, and I think if you have some
13 guidelines or some ideas of what the allocations are now
14 and ideas that you have to make adjustments, you know, I
15 think the earlier we get started on it the better, and
16 certainly would be appropriate for you to make
17 recommendations or comments at this time on it.

18
19 But it will be a separate process from the proposal
20 form. The proposals will only address C&T use, changes and
21 harvest limit information, basically, that we have adopted
22 from the State's regulations. So there will be two
23 separate pieces of management that will be worked through
24 the Federal process.

25
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Gerald, do you
27 have a comment?

28
29 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I'd like to make a
30 suggestion is that on this allocation, in our three
31 Councils working together, that if they could -- if we
32 could let enough go at the mouth to meet the needs -- meet
33 the subsistence needs in the Upper Yukon River which is our
34 duty to do, we should set some kind of standard, but we got
35 to put into perspective that we have to work with YRDLFA
36 because not all -- not the whole Yukon River is in Federal
37 control. We got to think about State control, too, in this
38 deal here.

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Gerald. Did
41 Craig have a comment?

42
43 MR. FLEENER: I was just going to talk a
44 little bit about what we did in Fort Yukon this past summer
45 when I was up there. We worked on -- we sort of started
46 developing an Upper Yukon River salmon management plan. I
47 turned it over to CATG when I was done working on it. I
48 didn't quite complete it before I left. But we've been
49 interested in working on reallocation just because, of
50 course, the people in the Upper Yukon have felt they

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1 haven't gotten enough salmon for quite a few years and that
2 part of the problem is that they just get the -- the
3 numbers get cut off before they get up there. And so it's
4 a really important issue that we look into allocation for
5 the Upper Yukon. But it might be best done when we're --
6 after we put some proposals together and when we're at our
7 Regional Council meetings -- at the next Regional Council
8 meetings, I should say, plus we can discuss it and work
9 through the issues as our individual Council's doing it
10 separately. I think that might be good for starters.

11
12 And as long as the other Councils are aware that
13 we're definitely interested in allocation and working with
14 the committee that we set up, I forget what we call it, but
15 the two members from each Council, I think, will also be
16 valuable. And any time we get into allocation, I guess,
17 each of those members should be available because I think
18 it's going to be -- it could -- it has potential to get a
19 lot of people upset and I think we need to try to work
20 through it the best we can. People just want to have their
21 subsistence needs met without getting too many other people
22 upset at them. So I think we want to tread fairly lightly
23 but do the best job we can to meet everyone's subsistence
24 needs.

25
26 Thanks.

27
28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Vince, did you
29 have a comment?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: I might just have a
32 suggestion on that that might help us out, would be, one
33 direction to go on this would be to request a workshop on
34 the planning -- on the plans that are in place for the
35 drainages that you cover, and that that workshop be
36 provided either for your coordinating fisheries council or
37 for the full Councils here because that might help explain
38 how -- maybe by then we'll be able to see how we can
39 integrate existing plans that are on State side and how
40 their effect will be on Federal side. So there might be a
41 workshop that we would -- because we don't have people here
42 to go over the different plans presently.

43
44 MR. FLEENER: If it'd be a workshop, I
45 think it'd be best if the entire Councils could attend
46 because they're going to be representing a broad array of
47 people instead of just two members who are going to have to
48 go and report back to their Council before anything could
49 be done. So if the entire Councils could be there they
50 could be more involved in decision-making, at least,

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1 setting some direction with the management plans.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: What kind of time frame
4 are we looking for this, tomorrow?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm kind of leading
7 towards Ida on this -- oh, is that for me -- oh, sorry. Go
8 ahead.

9

10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: No, go ahead, Vince.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: I'm trying to draw Ida into
13 this because she was the one that was involved in the Phase
14 I training which was done in January and Phase II was what
15 the Regional Council's need, and to be honest with you I
16 don't know how they were scheduling that in their planning.
17 So maybe she can enlighten us on that. But it sounds like
18 you are leaning towards a workshop.

19

20 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
21 Committee member. In reference to Craig's comments and the
22 discussion here, last summer when the Board traveled
23 through the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainage, that was Phase I
24 of a process of becoming ready for fisheries management.
25 The training session that was held for the Councils in
26 January was originally supposed to happen in November, that
27 was Phase II. Phase III was a regional workshop that's
28 supposed to happen in March. But because the January --
29 the November one changed to January, Phase III, which you
30 all discussed in the regional caucuses and made really
31 strong recommendations and critiqued the program in, is
32 going to be Phase III. And your comments then will be
33 incorporated, however, the office hasn't yet set the date
34 for it but that is the plan for Phase III in a workshop
35 that's more specific to your specific Councils.

36

37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Ida, one question,
38 do you know if it would be held before our fall meeting?

39

40 MS. HILDEBRAND: Like I said, we hardly had
41 time to get out of the January training session and a
42 report is still being drafted and then we began the
43 Regional Council meetings so we haven't had an opportunity
44 to meet on that to discuss a date.

45

46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Ida. Go
47 ahead, Craig.

48

49 MR. FLEENER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think
50 it still would be valuable for our three Councils to get

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1 together and develop a direction and then we can go to this
2 Phase III meeting more prepared with what we think is a
3 good idea instead of everybody going there without having
4 communicated with the other people within the same
5 drainage.

6
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Gerald.

8
9 MR. NICHOLIA: This is just a comment for
10 the upriver folks from the Y-K, I was really talking with
11 Harry Wilde and a few other folks down there and they
12 really do understand that upper river people are not really
13 getting their fish so they'll be what can you call,
14 sympathetic or whatever, for upriver. So I really stressed
15 it to him in the Anchorage meeting.

16
17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Angela.

18
19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes, Mr. Chair. I don't
20 know who's going to be able to answer me but in our area we
21 have this freshwater permit thing where people come in and
22 go fishing up the Innoko River and the mouth of the
23 Iditarod but they use it as a coverup. Is there any way we
24 could submit a proposal from our region declaring a
25 moratorium on all freshwater permits within the Innoko
26 River and the Iditarod and Iditarod River falls in that
27 Innoko Wildlife Refuge?

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Would Vince or Ida
30 like to take that?

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: I'll let Ida answer it but,
33 yes, that proposal could be submitted and then we would
34 sort it out later. We don't want to get into debating
35 issues on it at this point.

36
37 MS. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, the call for
38 proposals is for fish on Federal waters. If you're talking
39 about Federal waters, certainly you may propose whatever,
40 it will get into the hopper and there'll be a Staff
41 analysis and it will come back to you and go before the
42 Board. So basically if it's subsistence or impacts
43 subsistence you're free to propose whatever.

44
45 MR. NICHOLIA: Could I add to Ida's
46 comment?

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.

49
50 MR. NICHOLIA: The only thing about doing

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1 these Federal and State proposals, you'll have to recognize
2 the boundaries, whether they're State or Federal.

3
4 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, Terry.

7
8 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Angela, those
9 are the kinds of concerns that you can bring to the Board
10 of Fisheries attention as well since it's very likely that
11 those are State permits that are being issued. And if
12 there are conflicts there, certainly the Board of Fisheries
13 should be aware of those or at least the Department of Fish
14 and Game and perhaps we can help you address those
15 concerns, too.

16
17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. I think Davey had
18 some comments.

19
20 MR. D. JAMES: Chuck, just for
21 clarification, Ida, like on the Yukon Flats there, we got
22 the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, but we got these
23 allotment, we got the corporation land within the Refuge so
24 how do -- is that State or Fed water?

25
26 MR. GOOD: Private.

27
28 MR. D. JAMES: Or private?

29
30 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
31 Committee member. Is the allotment along a stream, a
32 river, a tributary?

33
34 MR. D. JAMES: Yes, it's along the river.

35
36 MS. HILDEBRAND: Has title been passed
37 or.....

38
39 MR. D. JAMES: Well, it's a
40 corporation.....

41
42 MS. HILDEBRAND: Has the allotment been
43 certified.....

44
45 MR. D. JAMES: Yeah.

46
47 MS. HILDEBRAND:or has the
48 corporation received title?

49
50 MR. D. JAMES: Yeah.

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1 MS. HILDEBRAND: Okay. Then it becomes
2 private lands and private lands aren't a part of the
3 Federal system. If they're selected but unconveyed, it's
4 part of the Federal system.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Are you asking about water?

7
8 MR. D. JAMES: Yeah.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, he's asking about the
11 water. Isn't it true that all the waters within the
12 conservation unit would fall underneath this program for
13 subsistence?

14
15 MS. HILDEBRAND: If the waters are -- okay,
16 I thought you were talking about an allotment,
17 specifically. The waters within Federal boundaries,
18 according to the last statement of the solicitor, would be
19 treated as Federal waters.

20
21 MR. D. JAMES: Okay, it's Federal then, all
22 right, thank you.

23
24 MS. HILDEBRAND: Within the boundaries.

25
26 MR. D. JAMES: The other one is a question
27 I got is this call for proposals, does that -- can we
28 submit regulations on time or days of fishing.

29
30 MR. FLEENER: Anything.

31
32 MR. D. JAMES: Anything, uh?

33
34 MR. FLEENER: You can submit a proposal on
35 anything.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the call for proposals,
38 any of the regulations that are in the Federal Register
39 there that you can put in for seasons and harvest limits.
40 The question earlier was on allocation which is usually
41 covered by plans. And you have under your authority of
42 ANILCA to review plans that you desire that may impact
43 subsistence users.

44
45 MR. D. JAMES: Yeah, okay, so that's, you
46 know, there's two parts to this, too, allocations and time
47 people fish in the Yukon Flats.

48
49 MS. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me. Allocation is
50 a separate issue. Under the call for proposals you're

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1 asking to change regulations that deal with customary and
2 traditional use that deal with the take or the bag limit
3 for fish and would also include a season. But the season
4 is extremely short if you're talking about salmon. If
5 you're talking about non-salmon species there's really no
6 restriction or very few restrictions on non-salmon species.

7
8 MR. D. JAMES: No, well, I'm going to give
9 you an example. The problem we're having up there is still
10 allocation but the other problem is our people, the season
11 is open for six hours and the fish don't run within that
12 six hours. And the fish is coming up, by the time it comes
13 up they already close the season for four more days.
14 That's the point I'm trying to get to. So our people up
15 there want to fish. They get their fish wheel running only
16 for -- they only average 10 fish, you know, because a
17 majority of the fish already went by and the State already
18 closed the season at that time there.

19
20 So the other problem, too, we have in Yukon Flats
21 is we have three channels and a lot of islands there so
22 that's another big problem we have there. But from what --
23 you know, I fish up there, we put our fish wheel in there,
24 our fish net there and the seasons open for four hours and
25 then but -- you know, we have to close it again there. So
26 that's something that we're going to look into.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

31
32 MR. GOOD: Now, as I understand it, we're
33 not starting cold, what we're really starting with are the
34 State regulations adapted over. If we're going to have a
35 workshop it might be a very good idea to do some form of an
36 overview of what is currently in place before we start
37 changing it so that we really understand what we're dealing
38 with. And just thinking in terms of Davey's comment here,
39 we talked about emergency openers, emergency closures and
40 his area is heavily Federally impacted. It is possible for
41 us even to consider things like Federal emergency openers
42 when the fish are there. But that would be something for
43 us to consider in workshops and consider for other times.

44
45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Nat. Go
46 ahead, Calvin.

47
48 MR. C. TRITT: David make a good point
49 about fishing season open when the fish comes up and they
50 close the season. Now, this is something that's been on my

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1 mind for a long time and we need to address it as the
2 Board, since we're here all together. We should bring out
3 something to address this. Because I got a hard time
4 understanding this and if I don't understand it right then
5 -- it doesn't make any sense because these people in Fort
6 Yukon, up that way, have a certain time, certain period of
7 time, not the same time every year when the fish goes by
8 and they have to be ready to get their share but the season
9 close and then they're in trouble.

10
11 So I'm just backing up David's comments.

12
13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.

14
15 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, from serving on the
16 Tanana/Rampart/Manley advisory committee to the State we do
17 deal with time. You guys could req -- it says in State
18 regulations that you could request an eight hour period, 12
19 hour period, 16 hour period and a 24 hour period. We have
20 been dealing with those situations in the State parks, even
21 a 48 hour period.

22
23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, maybe since we're
24 going to be getting another workshop here up, maybe we can
25 bring these questions up then and get back to try and get
26 these proposals, if there's any proposals out there, done
27 with. Go ahead, Vince.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think we need
30 to get it clear on the record that you're asking for a kind
31 of a workshop thing with all three Councils?

32
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: That's what was talked about
36 earlier.

37
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That's what was
39 suggested, yes.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then the question
42 then would be that you -- when would you like that, before
43 your fall meeting so you can be better acquainted with how
44 this all interjects? Because I want it clear.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, that gives us a
47 better outlook on proposals, dealing with fish at our next
48 meeting.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So then just so you

00385

1 know that would mean we'd probably have that this summer,
2 which is a very busy time for all of you. So we'll just
3 have to work on that. And we have no idea if Y-K would
4 support it. I would assume Yukon-Kuskokwim would but we
5 don't know that so we'll have to carry that to the Yukon-
6 Kuskokwim, that you would desire a workshop with them. I
7 know I'm repeating myself here but I'm basically letting
8 you know that it's another three or four day commitment in
9 summer to get this together, assuming we can get the Staff.

10
11 MR. FLEENER: It shouldn't be that long.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I would say with travel
14 and everything it would be a maximum of four days,
15 incorporating the travel. This is what the program needed
16 to hear is all I'm saying. I'm not discouraging you. We
17 needed to know what training you needed, you've made it
18 clear what training you would like at this point and then
19 we'll just go forward with that and that's all. And
20 obviously we'll incorporate the State, where we have to
21 have their expertise and they are the writers of the
22 different plans so we need to have State involvement on
23 that. And I'll stop.

24
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Terry.

26
27 MR. HAYNES: Thank you for mentioning that,
28 Vince. And if something is planned for this summer it's
29 going to be very important, if you want State
30 participation, to give us a lot of advanced notice so that
31 we can do our best to have appropriate people available.
32 Because most of our fisheries staff, as you know, are out
33 in the water during the summer months and it's very
34 difficult to take them away from those jobs for very long.

35
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, you could always
37 come, Terry.

38
39 MR. HAYNES: But I don't know anything.

40
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You're not supposed to
42 admit to things like that.

43
44 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes, go ahead, Raymond.

47
48 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Vince, could you run
49 through the time frame because I'm wondering why we would
50 have to have it this summer. We won't be taking new

00386

1 proposals again until next, what, March or so would be the
2 deadline?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: The reason I only suggest
5 that you do it this summer is because it appears by
6 comments of some members they're not sure how these
7 different seasons and harvest limits integrate with each
8 other.

9
10 MR. COLLINS: Right.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: You will have proposals --
13 well, guessing you will have proposals before your next
14 fall that are going to ask you to change these. If you
15 don't know how turning this cog to the right affects the
16 whole other machinery, you may end up resulting in an
17 unwise decision that would have to be revisited, either by
18 special action, emergency order, or by the next year. I
19 think Ida laid it out right, if we could turn the clock
20 back six months you would have had the training now.....

21
22 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS:for submitting proposals
25 so you could understand which areas may need to be changed
26 in here. But we can't go backwards we can only go forward.

27
28 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: Well, maybe that
31 determination could be made then when we see what kind of
32 proposals come in this spring. If there aren't very many I
33 would suggest that we look at having training next winter
34 so we're ready for the next year when people may really be
35 geared up.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

38
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Craig.

40
41 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of
42 the reasons I was thinking that it would be wise to have it
43 fairly soon would be because we could be more prepared for
44 the Phase III that Ida mentioned that the whole Federal
45 system is going to put together and I don't know what that
46 time period is. But if we could be more prepared, as a
47 drainage, to talk about things that are important for us,
48 we could go into that meeting and instead of having to do
49 separate caucusing at that meeting because we're not sure
50 what we're doing, we already have a general direction of

00387

1 what we want to do, what some major goals are.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

6

7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.

8

9 MR. NICHOLIA: It's just a comment that I
10 think in Anchorage I got the feeling that Y-K would
11 appreciate and would be willing to work with us on any
12 deals. They expressed that in Anchorage, I think we all
13 saw it.

14

15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think Steve has a
16 comment, if President Ginnis would come up to the table
17 please.

18

19 MR. GINNIS: Well, you know, I guess I just
20 want to make another point here. I think when we're
21 talking about fisheries, we're not just talking about
22 proposals. I think that you need to keep that in mind. I
23 think one of the things that I think about is projects, you
24 know, fish counting types of things, and I don't know how
25 -- Vince, I don't know how you address that. You know,
26 like I'm thinking about a sonar, maybe right above Tanana
27 that goes into that river, that portion of the upper part
28 of the Yukon. There's other projects that are going on
29 that relates to fish research.

30

31 It just seems to me that you're not only just
32 talking about proposals you ought to be talking about some
33 of these projects that are needed to do an efficient job of
34 counting these fish.

35

36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, go ahead, Ronald.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for your information,
39 Steve, we discussed this a day or two ago. We're looking
40 at projects for spring 2000 and we're looking at projects
41 for spring 2001; I'm sorry that you missed it. We have
42 five or six -- six or more projects approved for February
43 2000, we've got draft projects for April consideration so
44 we are trying to take fisheries in its entirety.

45

46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Maybe now -- well, go
47 ahead, Vince.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Ginnis, I think what we
50 could do is provide you copies of that material. I think

00388

1 he's still here, if not.....

2

3 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, he's here.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: And then I would encourage --
6 I don't see the other Staff here so I'm a little
7 uncomfortable with that but I'll make sure that someone
8 from that Fisheries Information Service office contact your
9 office so we can make sure you're more informed. Oh, well,
10 Ida's a member so she can do it -- no, but what I'm getting
11 at is that I know his schedule doesn't allow him to attend
12 the full meeting so we need to get him the information.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: So we'll get that to him and
17 have someone contact him.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, I would suggest that
20 we mail copies to Gabe who does take care of Steve's
21 resources office.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gabe and Stanley.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: If that's okay with Steve.

28

29 MR. GINNIS: (Nods affirmatively)

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: That's okay with Steve, okay,
32 we'll send it to Gabe Sam, the materials.

33

34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Maybe now would be
35 a good time to go over the one proposal that we do have.

36

37 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. I also wanted
38 to comment on, you know, a logical place it seems to me if
39 you wanted to have a workshop would be to add a day to your
40 next fall meeting to do just a workshop just on fisheries
41 and the process there. But anyway, I'm sure we'll have
42 quite a bit more information by then, it doesn't seem like
43 it would be difficult to meet this summer, even for you
44 folks that are busy.

45

46 I also wanted to respond to, I believe it was
47 Gerald and Davey, were saying that they wanted to suggest
48 changing some of the season fishing times. You know, we
49 still have a month to submit proposals and we're willing to
50 work with you and get that proposal in if you want to get

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1 it in for this year. We could even do some of it today or
2 do some of it over the phone to try to get that in.

3
4 And that actually leads me right into the proposal.
5 We did receive one proposal that I wanted to read into the
6 record. Actually Chuck asked me to read it into the
7 record. It's submitted on behalf of the Eastern Interior
8 and Western Interior Regional Advisory Councils. The
9 proposal form we have asks certain questions on it, the
10 first one is, what are you proposing to change? This
11 proposal requests that the Federal Subsistence Board
12 provide funding to the agencies to conduct statewide stock
13 assessments of resident fish species. And it goes on in
14 the back, the results from this study would also be used to
15 measure future impacts to the resident stocks from sport
16 and commercial fisheries.

17
18 The next question asks, why should this change be
19 made? Rural residents are dependent upon resident fish
20 species for human consumption, non-subsistence fishing
21 occurs in many of the traditional and contemporary use
22 areas of the rural communities throughout the state.

23
24 The third question is, what impacts will this
25 change have on fish populations? The requested studies
26 would provide the information necessary to access changes
27 in abundance of resident fish stocks.

28
29 And then the fourth question, how will this change
30 affect subsistence users? Baseline stock assessment and
31 species identification information should be collected to
32 ensure the viability of the resident fish stocks. Results
33 from stock assessments and species identification studies
34 would facilitate management objectives. Healthy resident
35 stocks would allow for the continuation of subsistence
36 harvest and use of resident fish species.

37
38 And that's the end of the proposal. It will be
39 assigned a proposal number once we submit to our regulation
40 specialist in our office.

41
42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, we'll just --
43 fishery proposal 01.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Joint.

46
47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Joint proposal.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

50

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1 MR. FLEENER: I move to adopt this
2 proposal.

3
4 MR. NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

5
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, it's moved by
7 Gerald -- or by Craig.

8
9 MR. FLEENER: Okay, I'll second it.

10
11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Moved by Craig.

12
13 MR. NICHOLIA: Second by Gerald.

14
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Seconded by Gerald.
16 Okay, is there any further discussion.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chairman.

19
20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ronald.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I think this is quite
23 appropriate because we've been discussing resident fish
24 stocks that we have in our -- I hate that word, but,
25 unique, or -- in our backyard so to speak, okay. I think
26 it addresses it very well.

27
28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You had a comment, Nat.

29
30 MR. GOOD: Well, my only comment was
31 unrelated to that. I support this. I'm absolutely in
32 favor of it. The only question I have deals with the
33 process. And, you know, maybe somebody can just enlighten
34 me here. Were we going to develop a proposal book to work
35 from or are we going to handle these at each and every
36 meeting? You know, was there going to be a fisheries
37 meeting for proposals in the fall or -- you know, I'm just
38 wondering what the process will be. And I'm not saying you
39 can't do this now, guys.

40
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I can go over that, and
44 I apologize we don't have an overhead because it's become
45 very apparent to me that I need to develop an overhead just
46 so I can keep track.

47
48 Basically where you're at now is submitting
49 proposals, analysis will happen this summer, this is for
50 fish. In fall, when you usually had agency reports and

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1 developed wildlife proposals, you will be taking up
2 fisheries proposals with analysis. And then your winter
3 meeting, this meeting now, you're going to be looking at
4 wildlife proposals like you did, and writing proposals for
5 fisheries. So the two cycles are 180 degrees off. That is
6 what we're saying at this point. Please be aware that if
7 that doesn't work out, let us know if there needs to be a
8 different option on that. I mean we can't change it all
9 but meaning that having two objectives at one meeting may
10 not be possible.

11
12 So that's the way we envisioned it, was to use the
13 existing two meetings.

14
15 MR. GOOD: So it's appropriate for us to
16 handle this?

17
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: It's appropriate for you to
21 handle taking in proposals now then you do your voting them
22 up and down as far as recommendations in the fall for fish.

23
24 MR. GOOD: But isn't that where we are now?

25
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: No. Is there any more
27 discussion. Okay, go ahead, Craig.

28
29 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
30 only question I had about this proposal was that in the
31 first sentence or paragraph that Jerry read off, it
32 requested that the agencies conduct all of this research
33 and I think it would be wise if we include in there that
34 the agencies work cooperatively with the tribal councils
35 and other communities where applicable or when possible. I
36 mean a part of what we want to do is continue with
37 cooperative type management programs.

38
39 MR. NICHOLIA: Is that an amendment to your
40 motion?

41
42 MR. FLEENER: Sure, I'll make that an
43 amendment to my motion.

44
45 MR. NICHOLIA: Then the second agrees with
46 you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, so any more
49 discussion.

50

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1 MR. FLEENER: Did you get the language on
2 that, Jerry?

3
4 MR. BERG: Yeah, agencies will work
5 cooperatively with tribes.....

6
7 MR. FLEENER: Tribes and other communities
8 when possible.

9
10 MR. BERG:and communities whenever
11 possible.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: And it was a friendly
14 amendment, it's not a -- part of the original motion.....

15
16 MR. FLEENER: Hey, it's my amendment and my
17 motion.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, got it.

20
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Go ahead, Gerald.

22
23 MR. NICHOLIA: I was just going to make a
24 comment, just think of this as we're breaking new ground.

25
26 MR. FLEENER: Question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question's been called.
29 All in favor signify by saying aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: The proposal passes. Go
38 ahead, Vince.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I think it'd be a wise
41 time right now -- we usually wait until the end of the
42 meeting to talk about when you want to meet but I think
43 since you want to have a possible joint meeting with Y-K
44 and Jerry mentioned about having it part of the training,
45 is that -- an extra day on your fall meeting, is that where
46 you want to go? Is that the direction you would like?

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Vince, let's say we take
49 a quick 10 minutes and we can discuss this.

50

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Think about that
2 because if that's the case then we need to program it in.

3
4 (Off record)

5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I'd like to call this
8 meeting back to order, please. Could the Council members
9 please find their seats.

10
11 Vince, I guess we'll go ahead and try to set up
12 this training workshop for fisheries. And I talked with
13 Ronald and we came up with, you know, depending on what the
14 rest of the Board members feel like, is appointing up to
15 three people from each Council to attend this workshop so I
16 guess we'll just bring it up before the Board here and see
17 what -- if there was any other.....

18
19 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Benedict.

22
23 MR. JONES: Yeah, I would just like to make
24 one comment about fishing, how do we protect the spawning
25 ground because like the Hogatza River. The commercial
26 moose hunter operation go up in that area with the jet
27 units and that's -- it's on the Federal land and us hunters
28 don't go up there -- with prop but they go up hunt moose in
29 that area, and I'd like to see some kind of protection for
30 the spawning grounds, not only on the Hogatza but all the
31 way up the Yukon River. They also store gas in that area
32 in the fall.

33
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Benedict. Did
35 you want that in a proposal form or is that something we
36 can bring up at the workshop?

37
38 MR. JONES: I just brought that up as a
39 comment to protect the spawning grounds.

40
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Go ahead, Ronald.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I would like to direct
44 Staff -- I think Ida's got a few proposals, ideas that she
45 picked up just on our conversations and discussions so I
46 would like to propose to our Staff or Ida that we bring
47 this up in a proposal form to our next meeting.

48
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ida.

50

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1 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
2 Committee member. Generally Vince and the regional team
3 look through your statements for potential proposals. But
4 in addition to that, the comment that Mr. Jones made and a
5 lot of the comments here today have already been
6 incorporated into the program as recommendations for
7 projects, study projects and the projects that the
8 subcommittee addressed the other night.

9
10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any more
11 discussion on this? Well, we'll bring Craig up to speed.
12 What we were talking about is selecting three members from
13 each Council to attend a workshop, the workshop we were
14 talking about dealing with allocations and fish proposals
15 and guidelines and stuff like that.

16
17 I know you got a comment, Craig, so let's hear it.
18 Go ahead, Ronald.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, again, just to Craig,
21 I got the feeling that you wanted more than two because I
22 can understand your position. The workload would be pretty
23 heavy on two members so we're suggesting two, three or four
24 to represent each Council on the workshop that we're
25 proposing, you know. Is that my understanding, that it
26 would be too big of workload because we already have four
27 from the Western, you know?

28
29 MR. FLEENER: Yes, that's correct. I just
30 thought it'd be a little too much, especially with so many
31 people representing so many different parts of the country,
32 it would be nice to have a little bit more distribution of
33 membership going to that meeting.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chair, are we looking
36 for a motion or consensus on sending at least three or four
37 from each Council to this workshop?

38
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes, I believe so.

40
41 MR. GOOD: Just ask if there's any
42 objection.

43
44 MR. FLEENER: I don't think we need a
45 motion, Mr. Chair. I think even if you just -- if you two
46 are in -- if the two Chairs are in agreement that I think
47 we could do it by direction of the Chairs.

48
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. I guess we'll look
50 for volunteers then to attend this workshop.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chair, again, the dates
2 area open and as I stated we do have four coordinating
3 members from the Western Interior Council, so if the dates
4 and everything are fine with them I think that will be fine
5 with the Eastern, too, if they all concur because the dates
6 and everything are still open right now.

7
8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. So on the Eastern
9 side, do I have four volunteers or I do appoint people?

10
11 MR. NICHOLIA: Well, you got me and Davey,
12 that's for sure.

13
14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

15
16 MR. C. TRITT: Yeah, we always work -- it's
17 the people that's on the river, on the Yukon?

18
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

20
21 MR. C. TRITT: Yeah, that's how we always --
22 we've always done Davey and Gerald, and we'll probably put
23 Craig in there.

24
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. So we have Craig,
26 Davey and Gerald.

27
28 MR. C. TRITT: You.

29
30 MR. FLEENER: That would be fine with me,
31 Mr. Chair, as long as it's -- as long as the meeting is
32 going to be after May 1st because that's when I'll be
33 returning from my worldly travels.

34
35 MR. NICHOLIA: Nat is on Delta.

36
37 MR. GOOD: I know I don't have any fish.

38
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: How about you, Calvin, do
40 you want to be the fourth member?

41
42 MR. C. TRITT: I'm way up there. Fisheries
43 is -- well, I'm willing to learn that, yeah.

44
45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, do we feel
46 comfortable with a three member board? Go ahead, Craig.

47
48 MR. FLEENER: How about, Jim, would you be
49 interested, you're pretty close to the Yukon River?

50

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1 MR. WILDE: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, so that would be
4 David James, Jim Wilde, Gerald Nicholia, and I forgot your
5 name again.

6

7 MR. FLEENER: Fleener.

8

9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Craig Fleener. Go ahead,
10 Vince.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Do you have any preference of
13 when you'd like to have this since you're -- since the
14 eight members are here? Are you looking at a summer or are
15 you looking at something right before the fall meeting?

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ron.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, when this was brought
22 up I was thinking after the hunting season, moose hunting
23 season that's what I was thinking. That way we would
24 gather more information and take a look at what -- how our
25 attempts at managing have gone.

26

27 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I'd like to go moose
28 hunting this year.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have any preference,
31 Board members.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Well, later is better than
34 earlier for me.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, it goes without saying
37 that we all want to put in moose hunting before we start
38 traveling.

39

40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So that would probably
41 put it after our fall meeting?

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, that's before.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: No -- well, it could, yes.

46

47 MR. FLEENER: We don't want that, though.

48

49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, the reason I was
50 looking at -- well, let me see this.

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1 MR. MATHEWS: The window for your meetings
2 for fall has changed some. It's open from September 11th
3 to October 20th. You generally don't meet during hunting
4 season so that limits you from October 3rd to the 20th for
5 your regular public meeting. So if you wanted to benefit
6 from this workshop for your public meeting, it'd have to be
7 before -- obviously before October 20th.

8
9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Do you have any dates in
10 mind?

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: It's under Tab XYZ, if you're
13 wondering what calendar I'm looking at -- that one there,
14 yes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, while we're looking
17 at that we might as well go ahead and -- I was wondering if
18 Eastern Interior would mind having their fall meeting
19 October 11th, 12th and 13th; would that work for the
20 members of the Eastern Interior Board.

21
22 MR. GOOD: Are we talking about a joint
23 meeting again?

24
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: No.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: No, this is our fall
30 meeting. Would that work for you, Craig?

31
32 MR. FLEENER: Yes.

33
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So if you could.....

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: That's for Eastern and
37 Western or just Eastern?

38
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Just for Eastern. I
40 don't know if we were planning a joint meeting again next
41 fall or not.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Not at this time, no. Do we
44 have any preferences for the Western? Yeah, Jack.

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: My personal preference would
47 be for this week of October 3rd, that would be after moose
48 season and everything cleaned up?

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Will that work for Eastern

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1 Interior?

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: Well, I thought we were going
4 to have our next meeting in Nulato.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think that was by
7 consensus at our Aniak meeting -- after we had our Aniak
8 meeting, that we would have it in Nulato.

9

10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Jack, what we're looking
11 at is the joint workshop.

12

13 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, the joint.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: The workshop.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, the workshop.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: A date for the workshop
20 is what we're trying to find right now.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I misunderstood that. I
23 thought you were looking at Council meeting dates. So the
24 11th through the 13th, you're saying for the workshop?

25

26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: No, that's for our
27 Council.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay. All right.

30

31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Craig.

32

33 MR. FLEENER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Maybe we
34 could get some guidance as to how long a workshop would
35 take, I don't think it should take us more than two days,
36 Vince was suggesting up to four days.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: But that was including
39 travel, it'd be four days. One day travel, two days
40 meeting, one day travel home. So it's four days at minimum
41 for many of the members, which it's worked out okay, I'm
42 just saying that's where I came up with the figure of four
43 days.

44

45 MR. NICHOLIA: If we were to meet before
46 our fall meetings, how about just the last week of July or
47 the first week of August? That would be almost between the
48 king season and whatever, the chum season.

49

50 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any problem with

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1 that for Western?

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Well, if it's between those
4 two I would prefer probably the first week of August.

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

7

8 MR. JONES: Yeah, the first week of August.

9

10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: First week of August,
11 would that work for our members? Okay. You can take your
12 direction from that, Vince.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: So the first week of August
15 for the workshop, somewhere around there. And then I'll
16 try to work out dates with the four members from each one.
17 And obviously Y-K has not been apprised of any of this and
18 I don't know if they got some season conflicts down there,
19 whatever, we'll have to say that we're looking at the first
20 week of August.

21

22 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, perhaps we could
23 just send them a letter inviting them to this or something,
24 letting them know that we thought this would be a good time
25 and suggesting that they attend with us or, I guess, if
26 they don't like it they could reply giving us a better date
27 for them.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, sounds good. Go
32 ahead, Ronald.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chairman, we're still
35 looking at October 4th, 5th and 6th for the Western fall
36 meeting. At this time is there any objections?

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: It sounds good.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: And that would be in Nulato,
41 correct?

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, at Nulato.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: And as long as we're doing
46 this item, where was Eastern thinking of meeting on October
47 11th, 12th and 13th?

48

49 MR. FLEENER: Chicken.

50

00400

1 MR. MATHEWS: Chicken, that's a
2 possibility.

3
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: What type of -- do you
5 have an idea what type of proposals or anything we'll be
6 going over then?

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: No, I have no idea of
9 proposals. We asked earlier. I have no idea what
10 proposals we would have on fisheries.

11
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any -- Eagle.

13
14 MR. FLEENER: Do we have any moose
15 proposals that are going to be coming up?

16
17 MR. GOOD: No.

18
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I don't think so.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: You think you'll have any
22 moose meat?

23
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: They always do in Eagle.
25 Let's see, we've had Tanana, Fort Yukon, Manley, Tok, Dot
26 Lake, Northway.....

27
28 MR. FLEENER: Stevens and Minto.

29
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Have we had Stevens
31 Village, yeah, Stevens Village.

32
33 MR. FLEENER: Fort Yukon.

34
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We should look at the
36 possibility of a place that we haven't been but someplace
37 that can accommodate us.

38
39 MR. FLEENER: Juneau.

40
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, let's go to Juneau.

42
43 MR. D. JAMES: I'd like to go to Tanana
44 because I would like to hear their input on these salmon
45 management plans.

46
47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: It's up to the Board.

48
49 MR. NICHOLIA: It's up to you guys.

50

00401

1 MR. GOOD: Tanana's okay with me.

2

3 MR. FLEENER: Tanana, how does that sound
4 Jim, Tanana? Tanana sounds good.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: I just need to ask Gerald, we
7 had difficulty with lodging last time.

8

9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, and it's just going
10 to be worse now because what's his name's place ain't
11 there.

12

13 MR. NICHOLIA: That's what I was just going
14 to mention. We'll have to think of alternative if we can't
15 work out lodging unless you all want to sleep in the hall
16 or something.

17

18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Personally I'd like to
19 see it in Fairbanks. It just seems to accommodate a lot
20 easier, but you know it's up to the full Board.

21

22 MR. NICHOLIA: Tanana and then Fairbanks.
23 We always pick an alternative.

24

25 MR. FLEENER: Fairbanks is convenient but I
26 don't like the idea of meeting here because we miss the
27 voice of our community members and we haven't had anyone --
28 we've only had a couple people get up and comment. And
29 each one of the people that got up and commented were
30 employees and their ways were paid here. So we really miss
31 out a lot on hearing what community members have to say.

32

33 MR. NICHOLIA: Well, Tanana then and pick
34 another one along the Yukon or Tanana River.

35

36 MR. C. TRITT: Nenana. We never met in
37 Nenana.

38

39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: No, we haven't met in
40 Nenana before either.

41

42 MR. NICHOLIA: Tanana and Nenana as second
43 choice.

44

45 MR. FLEENER: Uh-huh.

46

47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, that's.....

48

49 MR. FLEENER: Fort Wainwright.

50

00402

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We'll go down there and
2 camp out at Mitch's place there.

3
4 MR. GOOD: Start up trouble in his
5 backyard. I got my tent.

6
7 MR. FLEENER: No secrets around here.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: The last time we tried to
10 meet in Nenana everything was closed so we'll work on it.
11 Lodging is another thing with Nenana.

12
13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: There's always been talk
14 about trying to meet in Eagle.

15
16 MR. NICHOLIA: If we meet in Tanana we
17 could probably come up with lodging.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: You did talk about Eagle
20 before and they offered to have you there, that was back
21 with the issue of moose and caribou and they are on the
22 river. The problem is that they are quite isolated as far
23 as other people coming into Eagle, where Tanana there's a
24 bit more trails and, of course, Nenana's on the road
25 system.

26
27 MR. GOOD: You can drive to Eagle.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: What?

30
31 MR. GOOD: You can drive to Eagle.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Well, is the road open at
34 that time, still in October.

35
36 MR. SHERROD: It depends on how much snow
37 there is.

38
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, the 15th it closes,
40 I think.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I don't know, I don't
43 want to change your decision, I'm just saying that.....

44
45 MR. GOOD: I can make it.

46
47 MR. WILDE: It's dependent on conditions.

48
49 MR. D. JAMES: I really would like to have
50 it at Tanana because the bulk of the fish splits from

00403

1 there.

2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

4
5 MR. D. JAMES: And there's quite a few
6 resource users there. You know, and we're going to get
7 into this fisheries, you know, I think that's one of the
8 logical places to meet.

9
10 MR. NICHOLIA: And another thing, too, is
11 I'm seeing a lot of interest from mostly -- kind of between
12 Manley and Rampart. I don't think Rampart has the
13 accommodations to put up people but Manley does but there's
14 hardly any -- it's more like a roadhouse sitting there and
15 we wouldn't really get public comment from a rural
16 perspective.

17
18 MR. FLEENER: There was a lot of community
19 participation when we went to Tanana last time, an awful
20 lot of people attended the meeting.

21
22 MR. GOOD: Yes, there was.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we can work out lodging
25 and come back and if there's a problem we can go to second
26 and third alternatives.

27
28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We'll all sleep at
29 Gerald's house.

30
31 MR. GOOD: That's right.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, let the record reflect
34 that Chuck will stay at Gerald's. We can work something out
35 and we got all summer to plan it out.

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So we got Tanana for our
38 first decision and then if not, Nenana?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. And if something
41 else happens then I'll get a hold of you on that. But I
42 think we'll work something out in Tanana, I mean I just got
43 to work with Gerald and the tribal council. We'll work
44 something out.

45
46 MR. NICHOLIA: You could work with me as a
47 tribal council employee and as a city council member.

48
49 MR. GOOD: But not as a member of this
50 committee.

00404

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, now, that we got
2 that squared away. Okay, moving down the agenda.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think where
5 we are on the agenda is Chair's reports. Remember these
6 agendas are drafted months in advance. I don't know if the
7 Chairs have any reports to give but this was to give
8 opportunity if they wanted to report about something that
9 they did with the Board, with their local area, et cetera.
10 That's up to each Chair.

11
12 Okay, Chuck doesn't have anything. I don't know
13 if.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ronald.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, just briefly. Is this
18 now Thursday morning?

19
20 Again, I'd just like to let Eastern Interior know
21 that I was chosen as an alternate for the task force on
22 fisheries. And as an alternate it doesn't work. It's a
23 hit and miss proposition. You miss that first meeting,
24 you're lost and I had to sit in on that second meeting and
25 then was thrown back out for the third meeting, so being an
26 alternate doesn't work. I don't know if I want to sit
27 there unless I want to go there to gather information.

28
29 The other thing that I had to report on is that,
30 you know, AFN had an emergency meeting and I was called up
31 two days before that meeting to see if I would serve on the
32 panel, which I said yes to and I haven't really been home
33 since then. But I did iterate and elaborate on the work
34 that we've been doing, both on the Eastern and Western
35 Councils. Again, I told them that I thought that we were
36 doing a good job, we will continue to do a good job other
37 wise we wouldn't have been chosen to takeover fisheries.
38 And this was echoed by Willie Goodwin. So I think that
39 we're still on the right track, otherwise we wouldn't have
40 been chosen for fisheries.

41
42 With that, I think that we -- the waterfowl,
43 migratory waterfowl will also be dumped on us which I kind
44 of expect shortly. They've been pretty quite on that
45 front. But I guess I haven't been home, really since then,
46 so that concludes my report.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Ron.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that would

00405

1 bring us up to if any Regional Council members have any
2 reports. I don't know of any that they might but they
3 might.

4
5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ron.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I think that whether
8 we need a report or not -- probably not needed. We've been
9 using the basis of these advisory councils moves throughout
10 our meeting so I don't know whether we need that or not at
11 this time unless.....

12
13 MR. GOOD: Gerald has something.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM:people want to
16 introduce something new.

17
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Gerald, do you
19 have a comment?

20
21 MR. NICHOLIA: Yes. Since it's Regional
22 Council member reports. You know, I've been working on
23 this wanton waste legislation that Carl Morgan and
24 Georgianna Lincoln is introducing. I'd like to make a
25 motion that these two advisory Councils support the wanton
26 waste legislation that's being put forth by Georgianna and
27 Carl Morgan. It's two separate bills at this point in time
28 but I think the two offices, Georgianna's and Carl Morgan's
29 is going to get together and work out the same resolution
30 so if one gets passed, one -- if they both get passed, if
31 it's that lucky.

32
33 But I'd like to make a motion to request these two
34 Councils support both bills by Georgianna and Carl.

35
36 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

37
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. It's been moved
39 and seconded by Michael. Did Gabe want to -- okay, Gabe
40 Sam, can you come up to the table. While we're waiting for
41 Gabe to come up I had a little concern with that wanton
42 waste legislation. My main concern was their definition of
43 edible meat. I mean it seems more -- okay, go ahead, Ida.

44
45 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
46 Committee member. The problem with the edible meat or the
47 word, edible meat, was discussed in the Aniak meeting. And
48 I forgot the protection officer that was there, but he was
49 stating or suggesting to the Councils that if they deleted
50 the word edible it would be easier to enforce the wanton

00406

1 waste laws and that was what Carl was trying to do with his
2 bill. And I haven't read the one by Georgia -- the bill by
3 Senator Lincoln, so I need to read that before I can
4 respond to it. But if she and Carl are going to work
5 together, that specific language of deleting the word,
6 edible, was to help in law enforcement.

7
8 MR. NICHOLIA: Ida, maybe I bit off too
9 much of a chunk. Because I read both Carl's and what I
10 sent to Carl is just what I sent just about to everybody.
11 But Georgianna has been working on this for the last four
12 years and she put together one and I want to send both of
13 theirs -- both these two documents to both offices and
14 maybe they could work out something between them.

15
16 MS. HILDEBRAND: Okay. And if you do send
17 something to Senator Lincoln, you'd need to give her some
18 background of why Carl's bill was trying to delete edible,
19 and it was solely to make it easier for law enforcement.

20
21 MR. COLLINS: I think I can comment. I
22 think what he suggested in his bill was the word meat in
23 there. As soon as you put edible in it becomes subjective.
24 Because somebody could argue, well, that's inedible, that's
25 why I didn't save it, it's spoiled or whatever. But if you
26 say you have to salvage the meat and leave that word out,
27 then salvaged meat means salvaged meat. You're not saying
28 whether it's edible or not, you just have to salvage the
29 meat. I think that's what they were getting at in law
30 enforcement. Because they can always bring in a lawyer and
31 say, well, that was inedible, spoiled or whatever.

32
33 MR. NICHOLIA: That loophole, that's what
34 that officer was talking about when we were in Aniak.

35
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. I think what I was
37 trying to get at was the -- let's see on the second part
38 here, their definition of parts -- or it does not include,
39 and they put down the head, that's not included as
40 salvageable meat. I don't know about anybody else here
41 but, you know, that's one of the things I've always
42 brought back on a hunt, I don't see why -- you know, to
43 me it seems geared closer to a sports hunter. Something
44 that, you know, they would cut the horns off, bring the
45 horns back and leave the head. You know, that's just -- it
46 doesn't set right with me and that's my personal opinion on
47 it.

48
49 MR. NICHOLIA: Chuck, can I speak?

50

00407

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.

2

3 MR. NICHOLIA: These two bills are to deal
4 with sports hunters. We're not sticking up for them.

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, Gabe Sam.

7

8 MR. G. SAM: If you're going to be
9 supporting these two bills or one of the bills, there's
10 another one out there, it's HJR-56, and that's also Carl
11 Morgan's bill. And that's to do away with wildlife
12 management by ballot box initiatives. So that's one TCC
13 supports and we have a letter to Carl Morgan's office in
14 support of that one.

15

16 The one that you're talking about, Carl Morgan's
17 bill, from what I understand, it would make it easier for
18 law enforcement if you were to leave the meat on the bone
19 rather than -- I think the idea was transporting it out of
20 the field, I'm not quite sure how he rewrote that.

21

22 MR. NICHOLIA: When we were in Aniak we
23 talked about that it will be more feasible for the troopers
24 to enforce it, to bring a better case forward to delete the
25 word edible so that they cannot use the word edible and
26 have the meat spoil and say it's not edible so they don't
27 have to transport it out of the field. See they're using
28 edible as a loophole, if it's not edible, they don't have
29 to transport out of the fields; do you see what I mean?

30

31 MR. G. SAM: Uh-huh.

32

33 MR. NICHOLIA: That's just the whole focus
34 of Carl Morgan's bill.

35

36 MR. G. SAM: So it would be good if there
37 was a resolution for HJR-56 as well.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that HJR-15?

40

41 MR. G. SAM: HJR-56.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lincoln.

46

47 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, on this edible meat,
48 is there any way you can use some other word like useable
49 or something like that? I mean even if they spoil a little
50 bit, I mean you can always feed to the dogs, too, you know.

00408

1 MR. FLEENER: We're not changing the words
2 now, we can just support it, that's all we could do.

3
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Craig.

5
6 MR. FLEENER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Perhaps
7 we could -- since there's quite a bit of discussion and
8 concerns about some of the wording, maybe we could just
9 offer our support for -- maybe not necessarily offering
10 support for the bill but offering support for regulations
11 that would prevent wasting of meat and supporting the
12 concept of preventing wanton waste. Because it sounds like
13 there's several of the Council members that have some
14 concerns about the wording in here. And not that we're
15 opposed to this but there are genuine concerns about some
16 of the wording. And I don't know what Gerald would think
17 if we, at least, support the idea that we don't like wanton
18 waste and that we would support regulations that would
19 require less wanton waste.

20
21 MR. NICHOLIA: I'll take that as a friendly
22 amendment to my motion, if the second doesn't mind?

23
24 MR. GOOD: Second.

25
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, it's seconded by
27 Nat.....

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, point of order.
30 We had a motion before to support the wanton waste bill 274
31 with a second, where are we at now?

32
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, Gerald's the one
34 that made the first motion so did you withdraw your first
35 motion.....

36
37 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I'll withdraw it.

38
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER:and make a second
40 motion to support a letter.

41
42 MR. NICHOLIA: In support of wanton waste
43 legislation that is -- regulations that would deal with
44 wanton waste or just the way he put it.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: I think we may need to
47 separate the two Councils on this. Because Western
48 Interior was the main mover of getting this legislation
49 before the Legislature so I'm not sure they want to go with
50 that action. I don't know, I'm not hearing from them. I

00409

1 think there's so much confusion on the word edible, edible
2 is being removed. It's being taken out of the statute. So
3 you have to bring out everything that's defined as meat.
4 So I don't know if that's lost on people. Edible is gone.
5 Anything in brackets in Tab T, at the end there, anything
6 in brackets is being deleted. And the law enforcement in
7 Aniak said the problem they were having, which I'm
8 repeating again, others have said, is that, some are saying
9 that is inedible, I do not have to transport it out. So
10 they suggested deleting the word edible. And then I assume
11 Carl Morgan and staff went by Department of Law with this
12 bill and I wasn't here when Lieutenant Lorrington spoke on
13 evidence of sex, if he addressed this bill or not.

14
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: He didn't have much time
16 to. Okay, go ahead, Craig.

17
18 MR. FLEENER: Thanks Mr. Chair. I don't
19 think it would be necessary to separate the two Councils.
20 The motion is to send a letter in support of legislation
21 that would try to reduce the amount of wanton waste.

22
23 MR. NICHOLIA: Set forth good regulations.

24
25 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, and to make a good
26 regulation. And the only thing we're trying to prevent by
27 continuing this debate is preventing -- us arguing over
28 words that we probably can't do anything about considering
29 we can't make any changes to this regulation as it sits.
30 And perhaps we can just go ahead with this vote then. If
31 the members of Western Interior decide to vote against it
32 then we can do something else. Then perhaps we could
33 separate it.

34
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ronald.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Ray and I concur that
38 we're not directly addressing this bill and we do concur
39 with any support for wanton waste legislation so I don't
40 think we need to separate the Councils.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Well, I apologize then
43 for prejudging.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ron.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: You know, this bill has just
50 been introduced and before it goes anywhere it goes into

00410

1 the Resource Committee, what comes out can be totally
2 different as we all know. So I think this motion by Craig
3 Fleener is quite in order.

4
5 MR. FLEENER: Questions.

6
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, question's been
8 called. All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

13
14 (No opposing votes)

15
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, so, Vince, you got
17 your marching orders.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I misjudged that one,
20 sorry. That brings us up to annual reports.

21
22 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Nat.

25
26 MR. GOOD: I would like to introduce a
27 motion at this point. I think Gabe has a very good point
28 there.....

29
30 REPORTER: Nat.

31
32 MR. FLEENER: Come on Nat.

33
34 MR. GOOD: I would like to move that we
35 also send a letter in support of HJR-56, this is the ballot
36 box biology. And this is to curb -- the intent of it is to
37 curb wildlife management by voting and perhaps eliminate
38 the possibility of another vote -- another snare initiative
39 and of the battle we had earlier on the aerial wolf hunt
40 and so forth, and perhaps bring our animal wildlife
41 management back into the hands of actual biologists and not
42 those in Anchorage.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: It's been moved by Nat,
47 seconded.....

48
49 MR. FLEENER: Question.

50

00411

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER:by Jack, question's
2 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: The aye's have it. Okay,
11 moving down, we got.....

12
13 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, since we're
14 bringing proposals on the table, I haven't thought of
15 wording for this but I think it would be wise of us to
16 consider a proposal or a motion of some sort that would
17 cause the Federal agencies to consider revising the wording
18 that says that we will not -- we don't manage one species
19 at the expense of another species. Hearing that earlier
20 was -- and I've heard it before and it's shocked me equally
21 each time. Any time we manage any species on the face of
22 this earth, there's going to be impacts to something else,
23 whether we manage it for the benefit of itself or not,
24 there's going to be impacts to other species. And I guess
25 it's -- I think that it's a National Park Service
26 legislation and it may also be in U.S. Fish and Wildlife
27 Service, maybe not legislation but some sort of rules that
28 they go by.

29
30 And what it tells me when we have that type of
31 guideline is that we're not going to manage for anything.
32 Because if you manage species not to impact other species,
33 you're basically not going to manage anything. Yukon Flats
34 National Wildlife Service just recently did some burning in
35 cooperation with some of the villages in the Yukon Flats
36 and we can pretend that wasn't for the benefit of another
37 species and to the detriment of some others, but they
38 burned trees so they killed some trees, they killed some
39 willows, they killed some red-back voles, some yellow-cheek
40 voles, whatever other critters were living down there were
41 impacted. And for us to pretend that we're having no
42 impact on other species, we're trying to manage with a
43 blindfold on.

44
45 So I say all that to say that I'd like to make a
46 motion that the management agencies cease managing wildlife
47 -- oh, I don't know how to say it.....

48
49 MR. GOOD: To begin managing.

50

00412

1 MR. FLEENER:or begin managing, I
2 don't know -- I don't know how to put it into words.
3 Vince, what do I mean? you know what I mean.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know.

6
7 MR. FLEENER: Maybe I'll just think about
8 it for a little while and before we shut down for the day,
9 unless someone can think of some wording, I can't -- I
10 can't think straight.

11
12 Well, the bad thing is that I don't think it's
13 written in legislation, I think it's some sort of a guiding
14 principle somewhere.

15
16 MR. NICHOLIA: I could say, if -- to make a
17 motion to have the Fish and Wildlife or other State
18 agencies to recognize that if they think they're going to
19 manage one species and do something without impacting
20 another species, they're just about wrong, and they're
21 going to have to realize that they're going -- to manage
22 one species and do something for them they are impacting
23 other species.

24
25 MR. FLEENER: Something just like that.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Well, our wordsmith here
28 might have something but I think Gerald is a little bit off
29 track, that to manage one species you need to manage
30 another and.....

31
32 MR. NICHOLIA: You're going to impact
33 another species.

34
35 MR. FLEENER: Yes.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: But Craig was asking that
38 there be.....

39
40 MR. NICHOLIA: That to manage one species
41 you cannot impact another but if you're going to manage one
42 species to do something you are impacting other species.

43
44 MR. L. TRITT: I think.....

45
46 MR. FLEENER: Maybe we'll get some more
47 people in here to tell me what I mean, hold on.

48
49 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, I think it's more like
50 if you're dealing with one species, there should be a

00413

1 clause that says, you do not affect this species
2 exclusively, you know.

3
4 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, that sounds pretty
5 good. The recognition that we don't only impact the
6 species that we're managing. Something to that effect.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Well, maybe there's another
9 route on this.

10
11 MR. FLEENER: Well, why don't we just skip
12 this for now until we can come up with some wording and
13 I'll think of something if there's going to be another
14 break.

15
16 MR. NICHOLIA: What started this anyway?

17
18 MR. FLEENER: Well, I got mad because Vince
19 brought up the fact that a couple of agencies say.....

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: No, it's the Board's policy.

22
23 MR. FLEENER: Well, it's the Board's policy
24 but the Board got the policy from a couple of our Federal
25 agencies.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: I think that's where you want
28 to go.

29
30 MR. FLEENER: The Board didn't come up with
31 it on their own. So the thing that angered me is Vince
32 bringing this thing out that's been there all along, but I
33 don't like the idea that we're pretending that we don't
34 impact another species when we manage a specific species.

35
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Hey, Ida, can you clarify
37 this a little bit. I was always under the understanding
38 that it was a legislative decision.

39
40 MS. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I
41 was chewing ice. Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee
42 member. The language is in our proposals, I mean our --
43 proposals -- there is specific language, I couldn't flip
44 back to the one but in general, it's generally Park Service
45 who opposes something saying we can't manage one species
46 over another at the expense of another. And this morning,
47 I believe one of the Refuge managers said it would be
48 difficult to change. So there are the five Federal
49 agencies, they're heads of the -- the regional directors of
50 the agencies are the Federal Subsistence Board. And the

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1 Federal Subsistence Board makes decisions on subsistence
2 use. But each Federal agency also has its own agency
3 regulations. And that's where the conflict is, between
4 agency regulations and subsistence management regulations.
5 And what I believe Craig is trying to articulate, I agree
6 with him, we should either discuss this on a break and come
7 up with some language. But.....

8

9 MR. FLEENER: I almost got it.

10

11 MS. HILDEBRAND: But given some time I can
12 go to that specific place and tell you what that specific
13 language is and make suggestions as to what you're trying
14 to state here.

15

16 It's actually directly the Board to create a
17 subsistence that says in the subsistence area, you will
18 manage all species that affect subsistence regardless of
19 agency regulations, is actually where you're trying to go.
20 But then it would be -- the Board would probably give the
21 directive to their agencies to direct that issue.

22

23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, thank you, Ida. Go
24 ahead, Craig.

25

26 MR. FLEENER: Okay. I'd like to make a
27 motion that the State and Federal agencies, of course, I
28 realize, Vince, that we have no jurisdiction over the
29 State.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's fine.

32

33 MR. FLEENER: The State and Federal
34 agencies acknowledge that management of any species always
35 affects other species, and to benefit one species there may
36 be negative impacts to the other species. And the
37 operative word there is that they acknowledge that, so
38 that's my motion.

39

40 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, moved by Craig,
43 seconded by Gerald. Any more discussion.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: Well, I wanted to.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Jump right in Jack.

48

49 MR. REAKOFF: What?

50

00415

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I said just jump right in
2 there.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: I wrote up something while
5 Craig was, and this is an alternate language, that the
6 Federal agencies recognize that the subsistence users are
7 part of the ecosystems of the public lands of Alaska.
8 Management of species of Alaska to benefit another shall be
9 allowed. Example: Managing human harvest affects the
10 human species. Managing predator harvest affects other
11 species. So managing one species to benefit another --
12 when they manage the human to benefit moose, what's the
13 difference? Under the ANILCA language, Congress recognizes
14 the subsistence users in the house and senate record as
15 being part of the ecosystem. So, in effect, they are
16 managing one species to benefit another when they curtail
17 human harvest to benefit moose populations or whatever.

18
19 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, actually I like that
20 wording a whole lot better Jack. And if it's all right
21 with Gerald, maybe we can use that wording.

22
23 MR. NICHOLIA: It's all right.

24
25 MR. FLEENER: Okay. Question.

26
27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ron.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, I think Vince had a
30 question to clarify.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Not to put words in Jack's
33 mouth, that's half the story. You're saying that presently
34 the management of humans affect moose. The next logical
35 thing is what do you want the Board to do.

36
37 MR. FLEENER: I don't think that was part
38 of the motion, that was an example.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know.

41
42 MR. FLEENER: He just gave an example that
43 managing humans.....

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Does the motion want to have
46 an action by the Board? I didn't hear an action there
47 unless I misunderstood it.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: I guess it would be
50 applicable to insert further language that management of

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1 predators to benefit the moose species shall be allowed.

2

3 MR. FLEENER: Or perhaps just management of
4 any species.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: Well, that's what I said in
7 here.

8

9 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, he does have all that.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then I'm.....

12

13 MR. NICHOLIA: The fact that adversity
14 affects another species.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

17

18 MR. FLEENER: He does have an action in
19 there and the action is that they allow management of
20 species to benefit other species.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'm sorry I didn't
23 hear that but that -- if that's on the record then that
24 addresses.....

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah. It's real short. The
27 example we can leave in or not. Recognize that the
28 subsistence users are part of the ecosystems of the public
29 lands of Alaska. Management of the species of Alaska to
30 benefit another shall be allowed.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, got it, thank you.

33

34 MR. FLEENER: Question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Question's been
37 called. All in favor of the proposal signify by saying
38 aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

43

44 (No opposing votes)

45

46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: The aye's have it.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, while we're on
49 member reports, something that was just said about that
50 initiative -- the legislation on initiatives. I was just

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1 at a wolf summit this fall and I should report on that
2 because I learned at that, and I didn't know why Alaska's
3 being targeted with these initiatives. In Alaska it only
4 takes 20,000 signatures to get something on the ballot and
5 they can collect most of those in Anchorage and Fairbanks
6 and they can hire people from wherever to take signatures
7 and they had statistics on that and then they have to go to
8 different precincts but they can go down to Juneau and get
9 five or six. And it's very cheap to get something on the
10 initiative. That's why Wildlife Alliance and others may be
11 using Alaska, like the snare initiative over the English
12 only because they can get it on the ballot cheaper up here.
13 If they tried that outside it would cost them big bucks.
14 So we are being used in that sense by these initiatives.
15 And often the ones collecting it aren't Alaskans, they're
16 people that are hired to get the signatures. So just be
17 aware of that as you write about this legislation, that
18 that's what's going on on some of these things.

19
20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Ray. Go
21 ahead, Gerald.

22
23 MR. NICHOLIA: Could we put it in the
24 record that that was for backing up Mr. Sam's deal, ballot
25 box.....

26
27 MR. FLEENER: Initiative.

28
29 MR. NICHOLIA:initiative HR-56?

30
31 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, that's just some more
32 background information to that initiative we supported
33 earlier.

34
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any other
36 reports. I think we've heard from almost everybody here.
37 SRC meetings.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that's just a
40 time if Staff or if a member attended a meeting just to
41 share on that. Ray's a member of the Gates of the Arctic.
42 Jack is also a member of that. I'm going to forget
43 somebody again, but those are two that are on two different
44 -- Ray's on the Denali, I'm sorry.

45
46 MR. COLLINS: Denali SRC just met and there
47 was a handout to you on that and we have already plugged
48 that into a lot of our proposals, just those letters that
49 were handed out kind of was the result of that meeting. So
50 that's all I'll report at this time.

00418

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah.

2
3 MR. NICHOLIA: Chuck, excuse me.

4
5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.

6
7 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I was just going to
8 mention this that if the Tanana/Rampart/Manley advisory
9 committee, which I'm on, we submitted a proposal to the
10 State Board of Game and if that proposal doesn't ride
11 through the State Board, we have picked out a place that is
12 in Federal controlled in Nowitna National Wildlife that
13 will be in -- that just to be prepared that it's going to
14 come towards us. Mostly at the Western Interior since it's
15 located in the Western Interior. That's just why I
16 requested the Western and Eastern Interior meet because
17 Tanana's right on the borderline and a lot of issues don't
18 get taken care of that Tanana people would like to be
19 addressed.

20
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any other.....

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Jack.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: I sit on the Gates of the
28 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. And we, at our
29 last meeting, in December 15th or sometime like that, we
30 basically worked on the -- what do they call those things,
31 Clarence?

32
33 MR. SUMMERS: Subsistence management plan.

34
35 MR. REAKOFF: Subsistence management plan,
36 and it's -- we looked at -- you've probably seen those that
37 Denali's passed out, that's real similar to that, and that
38 was basically the upshot of that meeting.

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any more agency
41 reports? Okay, Vince.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: There are more agency
44 reports. This was just a section for letting Council
45 members give reports. I assume there's some agency reports
46 but we're not there yet on the agenda.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: The next item is the annual

00419

1 reports.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: We're still under member
4 reports?

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah.

7

8 MR. STICKMAN: I have the Proposal 113,
9 controlled use area. That was passed by the joint
10 committee between the Middle Yukon and the Koyukuk River
11 committees on the State side. But the proposal is
12 basically on Federal lands so I would like some kind of
13 support from this group here since the proposal is dealing
14 with Federal lands, and we are in charge of the Federal
15 lands.

16

17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, so you're making a
18 motion to support the State Proposal 113?

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Do I have a second.

23

24 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: It's been moved and
27 seconded. Discussion.

28

29 MR. NICHOLIA: I think we already discussed
30 it. Question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question's been called.
33 All in favor signify by saying aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, Vince, where are we
44 now?

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: We're up to annual reports,
47 they're under Tab U. I don't know how you want to handle
48 this. The way they're generated is the same for both
49 Councils. You guys give ideas and topics at your fall
50 meeting, I draft up draft language and then share with the

00420

1 Chair, and then from there it's provided at your meetings.
2 We can go over Eastern's real quick or we can just take a
3 break and let you guys read them over and then decide.

4
5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, do you want to take
6 a break and read this over? Craig.

7
8 MR. FLEENER: I was just going to suggest
9 maybe that instead of taking a break, each Council could
10 huddle together. We could talk about what we want to do
11 and then come back together and then quickly make any
12 changes and vote on it instead of both Councils having to
13 wait for the other.

14
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Well, maybe we can
16 take a few minutes and we can read through this. So we'll
17 take a few minutes and go through the annual reports.

18
19 MR. FLEENER: Good idea.

20
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: It looks like you go
22 that.....

23
24 MR. FLEENER: You got that puzzled look in
25 your eye.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: No, I'm just waiting to see
28 if you guys are going to take a break to look at them.

29
30 MR. FLEENER: We're taking a break.

31
32 (Off record)
33 (On record)

34
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I'd like to call this
36 meeting back to order please. Could the Council members
37 please find their seats. Okay, Vince, we're down to annual
38 reports.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we'll probably just go
41 region by region. Since Eastern Interior, I think, is
42 first in the book here -- yes, it is, do they want to
43 address their concerns on the annual report or what they
44 want to add to it or edit it or whatever?

45
46 MR. NICHOLIA: I move that we adopt the
47 annual report with the additions that we just gave to
48 Vince.

49
50 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, it's been moved by

00421

1 Gerald to adopt.....

2
3 MR. GOOD: Second.

4
5 MR. FLEENER: Question.

6
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER:second by Nat.....

8
9 MR. NICHOLIA: Question.

10
11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question's been
12 called.....

13
14 MR. FLEENER: Do we need to present those
15 at all in a motion form or can we just mosey right along?

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think what I talked
18 to during the break would be that I would work with Chuck
19 on the wording and possibly, Nat, on it since we've been
20 communicating on it. But basically what you would be
21 giving up by allowing that to happen is that you would not
22 have another review of the actual wording of your topics,
23 that you would delegate that to your Chair and possibly
24 your vice Chair. That's the only thing that you're doing.

25
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, question's been
27 called. All in favor of accepting the annual report with
28 the additions signify by saying aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Motion carries.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that would bring us up
39 to Western Interior.

40
41 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Move to adopt.

42
43 MR. COLLINS: Second.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. There's a motion
46 on the floor to adopt and seconded by Ray. We do have one
47 request and that was by Jack. Mic -- get the mic Jack.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, under the wound
50 loss within the Dalton Highway Corridor, I would like to

00422

1 see the Staff produce -- I'm looking for wound loss data
2 for these large ungulate type game animals like moose,
3 caribou in that bracket. Animals like elk and black bear
4 and so forth in other states probably have wound loss with
5 bow data. That is necessary to determine the actual
6 harvest, incurred harvest from hunting with the Dalton
7 Highway Corridor and I would like by the next -- by our
8 next meeting to see these types of data produced one way or
9 somehow.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Did you want that -- that
14 would -- to capture Jack's request, I would need to insert
15 the word caribou in there, I only had moose in there under
16 moose loss. And then do you want that in the annual
17 report, that this report be provided at the next meeting?
18 I know you're doing it across the record but do you want it
19 in the annual report, that request?

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: I would like it also inserted
22 into the annual report. Well, I'm just looking for wound
23 loss in that size category, for moose to dall sheep.
24 There's lots of bow hunts in other states, in the western
25 states that are occurring and somebody has to have wound
26 loss data on this bow hunting stuff. It's a significantly
27 higher wound loss rate. And with the high pressure of
28 hunting in the Dalton Highway Corridor, this data is
29 necessary to determine whether that moose population is
30 being harvested within sustained yield.

31
32 And that's all I have to say on that one.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does the Western Interior
35 Council concur with Jack and I'd just ask for consensus.
36 Do you have that?

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I have that, that we're
39 going to add caribou and that he would like the report by
40 fall and the sustained yield is already in the wording.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Satisfactory Jack?

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do I hear a question.

47
48 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.

00423

1 All those in favor of adopting our annual report signify by
2 saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries.

11
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Moving on down to agency
13 reports.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we dawdle long enough
16 we'll run out of agencies.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, this is the
19 time for agency reports. We followed the pattern from
20 Eastern Interior in your agenda, the first one listed is
21 Native corporations which could be the Council of
22 Athabascan Tribal Governments, Tanana Chiefs, Kuskokwim
23 Native Association, et cetera. That will be followed by
24 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. When I talked to
25 Wildlife Conservation they did not have any further report
26 but other divisions might. And then we go to Bureau of
27 Land Management, et cetera.

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, thank you, Vince.
30 Is there anybody here from CATG that would like to speak
31 now?

32
33 MR. D. JAMES: Trish, our regional
34 biologist was supposed to be here but she's busy writing a
35 grant right now. I'll just give a quick oral report, we
36 had it written out yesterday but she never came by with
37 that. But I'll give you a brief overall what we're doing
38 in the Yukon Flats. Right now we're in the process of
39 having a two day workshop next Monday and Tuesday, the day
40 before the Fish and Game Advisory meeting there. CATG has
41 taken the lead into this. We recognize some weak areas in
42 the Fish and Game Advisory Committees and we -- so what
43 we're doing is we're giving these advisory committees
44 trainings on how to look at some issues within and around
45 their tribal areas to start addressing and making comments
46 from their villages and report it back to their councils
47 and their chiefs. So that's the main objective of this
48 workshop there.

49
50 And the other one there is to start this Upper

00424

1 Yukon River salmon management plan that Craig started
2 there. And in the meantime, when he was gone there I got
3 some more information we compiled together and we're going
4 to have a draft management Upper Yukon plan coming out and
5 this is going to be a cooperative with all nine tribes in
6 the Yukon Flats.

7
8 The other one, we had a successful moose survey
9 done with CATG and the Native village of Fort Yukon staff
10 and with Bob Stephenson with the State on 25(D) east. The
11 population of moose is not stable yet but we still have a
12 high twin birth rates in the Yukon Flats, healthy. And we
13 also cooperatively did the moose survey with the Fish and
14 Wildlife there, they got somebody from Beaver to work with
15 them. But that's the -- Greg will talk more about that in
16 his report.

17
18 The other issue the Chiefs is going to be working
19 on next week, they're going to -- the 10 Chiefs [sic] are
20 going to be meeting with the other eight Chiefs from the
21 Yukon, the Gwich'ins, the Chiefs are going to be meeting
22 over here. They're going to be talking about the Arctic
23 Council membership seat they have open. The other issue
24 they're going to be talking about is the Yukon River
25 negotiations and I thought that was going to come up on
26 this agenda here. But the Yukon River negotiation panel
27 and Canada, I -- there's an issue with that problem because
28 that's mainly dealing with us up in the Yukon Flats. The
29 problem with that is the Yukon River negotiation is we
30 don't know who we're negotiating with. You know, we don't
31 know if we're negotiating with Ottawa or we're negotiating
32 with the Yukon Territory or we're negotiating with Donohue.
33 And it seems like -- I called the First Nation people up,
34 their leaders up and they have never been involved in this
35 negotiation. So there has never been no agreement with
36 Canada for the last three years. And so I offer -- I'm on
37 the panel there with Gabe Sam here and Angela, you're on
38 there, uh?

39
40 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Uh-huh.

41
42 MR. D. JAMES: Yeah. And I offer the
43 Chiefs to be part of these negotiations because the Yukon
44 First Nation Chiefs can make a difference in these
45 negotiations. So we'll be discussing that next month here
46 in -- in fact, in this same hall here.

47
48 And overall each of these individuals -- tribal
49 villages is working on their comprehensive land use
50 management plan and we'll be meeting some time this spring

00425

1 up in Arctic Village and go through each of their villages
2 comprehensive land use draft management plan. It's a very
3 important management tool that tribes are developing to
4 guide them down the future.

5
6 And that's it. Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Davey. Go
9 ahead, Craig.

10
11 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
12 wanted to add a little bit to the CATG report. I'm going
13 to be working with CATG over the summer. And CATG has been
14 working for quite a while on becoming more involved in
15 different areas of natural resource management in the Yukon
16 Flats. And, of course, we've been very interested in the
17 moose population for a long time and so one of the areas
18 that CATG is interested in and I'm going to be working with
19 them on is looking at some of the reasons why there is a
20 low moose population. And there are concerns by some
21 people, not too many, but some that vegetation might be a
22 limiting factor in the moose population and I don't
23 personally believe that that's the case but I'm going to be
24 doing some work this summer to look at chemical
25 composition, look at what moose are eating and take a look
26 at moose body condition and just look at overall moose
27 health. And we basically know that the moose are in pretty
28 darn good shape based on high twining rate, some of the
29 highest in the state, some of the highest in North America,
30 I should say. Extremely large number of calves being born
31 and excellent body condition through winter and spring.
32 And so -- but we can only guess that vegetation is of good
33 quality until we look at it. So we're going to take a look
34 at vegetation this summer and look at chemical composition
35 and look at exactly what the moose are eating, what their
36 favorite foods are and that's going to be a big part of
37 what we do this summer, and that's in cooperation with
38 CATG.

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Craig.

41
42 MR. D. JAMES: I have a couple more
43 projects that we're doing here on this fisheries project.
44 We submitted a proposal for up to Old John Lake, it's up
45 there by Arctic Village there, we're going to look at the
46 white fish and the beaver dams there. And the other
47 proposals we're submitting, too, is we're going to do a
48 weir and tower count on Black River. And that weir and
49 tower counting combinations came together -- we never
50 thought about doing both at the same time together until we

00426

1 got to meet with the Fish and Wildlife fishery department.
2 And it never dawned on them, too. So after we sat and
3 discussed this for about two hours and then somebody
4 brought up, well, why can't we do two. And so that was a --
5 instead of putting a weir all the way across the river,
6 we're going to put it on both sides there and we're going
7 to put the tower in the middle of the island there. So
8 that was one good positive aspect when we meet with the
9 agencies, just sit down over a cup of coffee and discuss
10 how we're going to develop a good management plan.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Davey. Next
15 we have Tanana Chiefs Conference if anybody here would like
16 to speak.

17
18 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chairman, Council and
19 Board members.

20
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Gabe, could I get you to
22 state your name for Tina.

23
24 MR. G. SAM: Yeah, my name's Gabe Sam. I'm
25 the director of wildlife and parks for Tanana Chiefs
26 Conference. I'd just like to clarify some things.

27
28 The Yukon River panel right now is -- not disbanded
29 but they're not formally recognized by both sides right
30 now. The time elapsed on March 1 of last year when the
31 negotiations fell apart. But we still understand that the
32 fish are not going to stop swimming just because we're not
33 together no more. So we still are meeting and we're trying
34 to get the panel back together. It's in the process of
35 reformulating.

36
37 And I sit on the panel as an advisor, I'm not a
38 panel member. I sit in as an advisor for the U.S. side for
39 Tanana Chiefs. And I'm not sure, are you a panel member or
40 an advisor Angela?

41
42 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I'm an advisor.

43
44 MR. G. SAM: Yeah. And so from our side
45 it's like Gilbert Huntington and a few other people, Julie
46 Roberts, they're panel members. And Clifford's still on to
47 serve on the panel for the Yukon River.

48
49 I would like to start with the HJR-56, it's
50 something that we feel is important for ballot initiatives.

00427

1 Coalition for the Alaskan Way of Life. I sit on there as a
2 co-chair for that group of people. It's a pretty unique
3 group of people. We have Alaska Outdoor Council members.
4 Alaska Trappers Association members. North Slope Borough.
5 Tanana Chiefs. A whole group of fur buyers. A whole
6 gamete of people that form this coalition for on specific
7 purpose and that's to battle these outside special interest
8 groups that -- in one sentence;p is trying to do away with
9 our way of life. That's what it is right -- when it comes
10 right down to it.

11
12 Pricella Farrell, she's the leader of one of the
13 most notorious, I'd call, outside special interest groups.
14 In a statement she said, the sooner the Native culture is
15 extinct, the better off the Native people will be. Now,
16 she said that to a reporter and it has been stated and
17 documented. So with that said, you know, not everybody in
18 the state of Alaska recognizes, you know, we share some
19 differences with like the Outdoor Conference on
20 subsistence, for example. When we got together we said
21 we're going to leave all our, you know, all our political
22 differences aside and we're going to focus on this one
23 issue, which was the trapping issue, snares issue for
24 trapping wolves, and that was all we had. That was all we
25 focused our attention on. Remembering that we are battling
26 these outside special interest groups that have millions of
27 dollars and our war chest was like \$250,000. We raised
28 that, you know, we begged and pleaded. I went to the North
29 Slope Borough meeting with Fred Meyes and Jay Mehichuk. We
30 went up there -- I've never been to Barrow and, you know,
31 they sat in a circle like this and I was pretty nervous at
32 that meeting because I didn't know what to expect, I
33 thought they were going to kick me right out the door
34 actually. Oliver said, I think this is the first time we
35 ever had an Indian from Tanana Chiefs come and ask us for
36 money. And I just said, well, this is the first time I've
37 ever been surrounded by so many Eskimos. And it just got
38 deathly quiet and I thought -- I just felt my blood rushing
39 and uh, oh, and Oliver started laughing, everybody started
40 laughing and that just broke the ice. And we all agreed
41 that this is a cause that we need to battle and unite
42 together. And we walked out of there with \$40,000, you
43 know, I was impressed. I was hoping for at least \$10,000.
44 But, you know, we could have gotten more if we wanted to if
45 we really pressed for it but we were willing to accept
46 whatever we could get.

47
48 But the coalition is still together and we hired
49 Fred Meyes to work with the legislature. One of them is
50 HJR-56. That bill could solve a lot of problems for the

00428

1 state of Alaska. For wildlife management in general. We
2 don't need outside special interest groups to dictate how
3 we manage our fish and wildlife up here in the state of
4 Alaska, you know, that's -- it sends a clear message down
5 to the Lower 48 and to our local environmentalist that
6 choose to battle our Native people out there in rural
7 Alaska.

8
9 I was on teleconference yesterday with the Senate
10 Resources Committee Wildlife Prey Management with Senator
11 Halford, Donny Fleagle and Mike Fleagle, Jack -- Carl Jack.
12 We all testified of what's happening in 19(D) east. Now,
13 it's no longer just putting food on the table. There's a
14 health and social issue involved and the Governor needs to
15 recognize that. When wolves start running into town it's
16 not because they're lost they're basically starving and
17 they're hungry. And when wolves lose their fear of people,
18 the ones that should be afraid are our little ones.
19 Running in town, as you all know in the village they're all
20 running out there and playing and they're basically running
21 around as food for these wolves. You know, we got some
22 reports from like Allakaket, for example, there was wolves
23 howling back and forth in the hills. And the kids had a
24 game going that they'd run from one end of town to the
25 other side of town because they could hear these wolves,
26 and it was a game. Now, this is getting way out of hand
27 and the Governor needs to come to the plate and recognize
28 that he has to implement this wolf predator control program
29 before something happens.

30
31 Like what happened in Russia. Wolves are dragging
32 people off. Or in India, wolves are dragging people off.
33 Same thing. And, you know, what's going to happen for the
34 state of Alaska.

35
36 I know I was going to rant and rave on something.

37
38 One thing I would like to touch on is the Koyukuk
39 River Moose Hunters Working Group. I followed this moose
40 hunters working group from the beginning to the end. You
41 know, the villages -- I got the direction from the villages
42 on which direction they wanted to head. Now, it first
43 started out with the villages with a grassroots effort to
44 start a group because they were worried about the
45 resources. There's a lot of moose out there but it's still
46 decreasing. Now, the issue is there's too many hunters and
47 too many wolves. I said before we're battling the big game
48 hunters and the general population in the summer time and
49 the fall hunting and in the winter time they're battling
50 the wolves. I don't know which is more dangerous actually.

00429

1 But in any case, what's suffering out there is the moose
2 resources.

3
4 There's a lot of things that Mr. Rogers left out
5 that I think the Council here should hear. And one, as I
6 pushed for a meeting to be had in Huslia with the Koyukuk
7 River advisory and the Middle Yukon advisory. Because I
8 wanted them to hear firsthand from the local people there
9 what they are facing. And they received an earful of
10 opposition to what was going on with this plan. And, you
11 know, I've said my peace about it every step I could.
12 There's a lot of things with the plan that I think is wrong
13 that could be improved. For example, the cutting of the
14 antlers. Instead of just cutting it at the beam where it
15 could be put back together with -- and, you know, probably
16 painted over, it could still look like a trophy antler.
17 What I proposed to them is just cut right through the palm.
18 If they're truly there for the 832 subsistence hunt then if
19 they cut through the palm then that totally destroys the
20 trophy value of the antler itself and that means they're
21 just there for the meat. But there's some opposition that
22 they'd rather cut through the beam, for whatever reason, I
23 don't know. But that part is where it's going to be
24 abused. The subsistence hunt is going to be abused more if
25 we don't enforce that.

26
27 All along I've advocated for the tribes out there
28 and I still advocate for them. You know, I've heard
29 different representatives coming from the villages have
30 different views and they're not voicing the concerns of the
31 tribal council. Now, I've said it again and again, that
32 they have to stick to their guns on what they're really --
33 meant to. Actually I wanted elders to attend these
34 meetings because they're not going to waiver. Our elders
35 will not waiver. They will stick to what the tribal
36 council and what their hearts feel.

37
38 You know this seven percent for the general hunt,
39 you know, and the lottery system, that's way to high. I've
40 heard the argument, this 80/20 split and I've heard Mr.
41 Rogers say himself, well, we got to think about what the
42 big game hunters are giving up here, you know, the guides,
43 what are they giving up here. All along I said I don't
44 care about the big game guides, you know, my job is to
45 protect the people out there and their ability to
46 successfully harvest a moose for subsistence. That's my
47 job. And I've voiced that all the way through.

48
49 I've been not totally involved with this process.
50 TCC has been left out of the process totally. You know,

00430

1 one of the largest non-profits in the region has been left
2 out and I voiced that from the beginning.

3
4 There is definitely illegal guiding operations
5 going on on the Koyukuk River. Definitely. They had some --
6 there is some cases going on and I'm sure not everybody
7 has been caught. I don't know how they're going to resolve
8 that. One of the ideas -- one of the things I've been
9 pushing for is a checkstation at Huslia and there's
10 different views on that in the community. People feel like
11 if there's a checkstation there is Fish and Game just going
12 to be watching just the Native people there and what
13 they're doing. I go back to that village and I go hunting
14 there and there's -- I see a lot of things go on and the
15 people are frustrated they don't know what to do. I've
16 seen moose sit on the runway and the airline taxi's pick it
17 up and it's so -- it's beginning to rot in the bags they
18 have it on, they wait until the last minute before they
19 load it on to the plane. Now, that's a clear case of
20 wanton waste. And there's the argument that a checkstation
21 at Huslia would cost too much, is it for law enforcement or
22 is it for data collection; I think it could be for both.
23 And I think they could probably, you know, go co-management
24 with the tribal council there.

25
26 One of the terminologies that kind of bothered me
27 today was Koyukuk River. Randy Rogers was using the
28 terminology Koyukuk River. It's like a blanket statement
29 that the whole Koyukuk River agrees with this. Now, not
30 the whole Koyukuk River does agree with this. Koyukuk, for
31 example, the Koyukuk River moose co-management does not
32 agree with this. Stanley Ned helped them formulate that
33 group and they're starting up, too. I think if they're
34 going to be funding this Koyukuk River Moose Hunting
35 Working Group they should fund the Koyukuk River Moose Co-
36 Management also. The Department said they could not find
37 funds to fund this group and for some reason, some how,
38 they found funds to fund the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters
39 Working Group. Now, you know, this is -- in my four years
40 here I think this is the most frustrating things I've ever
41 worked on. Maybe because I'm too closely tied to the
42 village of Huslia because I'm from Huslia or the emotions
43 of it all. You know, there's a lot of abuse going on on
44 that river. Seven hundred hunters is a lot of hunters.

45
46 It's not just no longer money, it's a social issue
47 now. It's tearing families apart because one son is a big
48 game guide and the dad is no longer working for the guide
49 operation so there's conflicts there, and it's going to be
50 for generations down the road. I think of it as an erosion

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1 of the community. People know what's going on and it's
2 just dividing the community totally. So, you know, that
3 has to be in check, too, also. This whole thing could
4 basically destroy a community, all for the sake of antlers.

5
6 I liked what Jack brought up at the beginning of
7 the meeting about Fairbanks, you know, you hear about all
8 these moose getting runned over around Fairbanks. I was
9 over at Fred Meyers going home and I was telling my wife
10 and I was laughing about it because we do hear about it.
11 And I said, I have never ran into a moose, I've never even
12 came close to running into a moose. About 30 seconds after
13 I said that I almost hit one on the Steese Highway over
14 here. I ended up slamming on the brakes and, you know, it
15 just came to a stop right in the middle of the road. And
16 that really opened my eyes up, actually. But, yes, there
17 is a lot of moose being hit around here. And a lot of the
18 agencies, even FNA got some moose for their annual potlatch
19 this spring. Maybe instead of the hunters here going up to
20 the Koyukuk River, there could be something done for the
21 Fairbanks moose management unit here.

22
23 I guess my final thought on this is, you know,
24 we've voiced our concerns for the community and what the
25 issue is up there and the future problems of it all. I
26 guess our next step is what direction the villages are
27 going to give me for the Board of Game coming up. We have
28 some ideas but you're talking about something that's big
29 game guide driven. A lot of these advisory guys that's on
30 the advisory councils are guides. And it just so happens
31 those guides are guiding on the Koyukuk River. So from the
32 get-go it's been big game driven.

33
34 I'd like to thank you for your time and that's all
35 I've got to say on that.

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.

38
39 MR. NICHOLIA: This Koyukuk River Moose
40 Management Group, wasn't it supposed to be to stick up for
41 the subsistence needs of the Koyukuk River people?

42
43 MR. G. SAM: The Koyukuk River moose co-
44 management was formed because they were concerned of the
45 excessive amount of hunters that's going up the Koyukuk
46 River. We've heard a lot of different -- you know, we have
47 no problem with other villages hunting up the river. We
48 know that they're harvesting the moose for subsistence.

49
50 MR. NICHOLIA: Was it to protect their

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1 subsistence interests?

2

3 MR. G. SAM: Yes, it was.

4

5 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay. And I was wondering
6 why, this Koyukuk River moose management group was given up
7 a subsistence interest for a sport interest; I was just
8 wondering why? We're here to stick up for our people,
9 their subsistence needs. We got to meet their needs, we're
10 not supposed to stick up for sports hunters needs. We
11 don't eat horns.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, do you have anything
14 to add?

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: The fall hunt doesn't
17 eliminate any subsistence hunters at all. All's it does is
18 eliminate the cow season.

19

20 MR. NICHOLIA: But you guys are painting me
21 -- giving me a different picture.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Well, the moose population
24 has fallen 20 percent in the last two years and that's kind
25 of the problem. The moose population is going way down.
26 When we lobbied to get the drawing hunt and then to reduce
27 the percentage of that harvest to five percent eliminates
28 the sport harvest a lot. We're cutting the sport harvest
29 tremendously and the guiding will go way down. I'm not
30 sure what those numbers would be, I'd have to look them up
31 here but the numbers of non-resident hunters that will be
32 eligible to hunt will go way down. So subsistence hunters
33 are still allowed to kill bull moose in the fall time, and
34 there's a cow season in winter and people will be able to
35 kill cows when they're needing fat moose.

36

37 So the subsistence isn't really being cut it's just
38 protecting the cows during the time when bulls are good and
39 then using the cows in the winter time. That's the way I
40 look at that.

41

42 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

45

46 MR. G. SAM: There's also the issue of the
47 wound/loss ratio. You have 700 hunters going up the river,
48 not every one of them is a successful crack shot shooter.
49 Some of them are first time hunters with very little or no
50 experience in hunting. So there was numbers being thrown

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1 around like 13 percent wound/loss ratio and that was part
2 of the presentation that I didn't hear from the working
3 group also.

4
5 Right now there's deep snow in Huslia and people
6 are catching wolves. I guess one of the things that was
7 brought up a little recently was, it's more human
8 management rather than prey management -- predator
9 management. There has to be predator management also.
10 Maybe we wouldn't be having this discussion if there was a
11 predator management. But there's a lot of wolves over
12 there in Huslia. And it's fortunate that they are able to
13 chase these wolves by snowmachine and they do at the
14 expense of tearing down their machines.

15
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ronald.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I'd like to reiterate
19 what Jack said. Like I stated again and again and again,
20 the last thing that will be cut is the subsistence hunt.
21 For the last 10 years our annual harvest has remained
22 stable, it has been within five or six moose harvested less
23 or more every year and that interest is protected whether
24 or not other entities come in there. I guess the rise in
25 hunters came quite a few years ago before formation of --
26 or the activity of these subsistence councils. And we took
27 over -- I mean we tried to make an impact in stopping these
28 hunters coming in that's why we went lottery drawing
29 permit.

30
31 I would like to clarify a few items while Gabe is
32 here. Tanana Chiefs Conference was invited from the start
33 and they were named as advisory council as with the Western
34 Interior Council, and that's the only purpose we served, we
35 didn't have no votes on this Koyukuk River Moose Hunters
36 Working Group. The Koyukuk River basin group was invited.
37 They attended the first meeting and they never came back so
38 it was opened all the time to the group from Koyukuk. As
39 far as cutting the palms, that wasn't opposed it was just
40 trying to find and define what would be the best method. I
41 can't remember what we did on that. And the road kill,
42 railroad kills, starvation of all urban moose was addressed
43 because every day at the hourly news you hear -- they have
44 a count every week, at one time -- three weeks ago, the
45 moose kill, starvation, roadkill and the railroad out of
46 the Anchorage area hit 12 or 1,300 and it was still
47 growing. And Jack and I addressed that problem. We tried
48 to -- at the Koyukuk River Moose Working Group, we asked
49 that the subsistence users and harvest -- or the harvest
50 alone be liberalized within the urban areas. And I was

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1 kind of abrupt with Steve Ginnis and I directed Vince
2 Mathews to forward all our attempts at protecting
3 subsistence to you with the understanding that you're going
4 directly to Steve. Because he came to this meeting, it
5 seems like that he wasn't quite informed on all our doings.
6 Is all that information going to Steve's desk?

7
8 MR. G. SAM: Oh, yes, it is.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you.

11
12 MR. G. SAM: Actually we had a meeting with
13 the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group before this
14 meeting started to fill him in on what their efforts are.
15 And again, I reiterated where we were coming from.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, thank you, Gabe. And
18 if I remember right, Steve, did attend our last Koyukuk
19 River Moose Working Group meeting.

20
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lincoln.

22
23 MR.L. TRITT: Yes, this HJR something, you
24 know, it's pretty obvious from what everybody's saying that
25 there is a lot of problems between moose and wolves in the
26 Interior. And it seems to me that all these problems
27 started with all these trapping laws, you know. And it
28 would be this -- it would be a good time to use that as an
29 example of messing around with the animals where you get
30 them all out of proportion. I think that it's a good
31 vehicle to tell people to leave things alone and leave it
32 to the people who knows what's going on.

33
34 And the other thing that bothers -- I saw it in one
35 of these proposals the other day is this bow and arrows,
36 you know. Back in the old days when they used bow and
37 arrows, they know how to use it and they're powerful enough
38 to do damage on the first run, you know. And to me, bow
39 and arrows are -- is pretty much a guarantee to finding --
40 getting a wounded animal. Because if you don't hunt good --
41 right with it then you're going to be wounding a lot of
42 animals and you're going to be wasting a lot of animals.
43 And so I think this bow and arrow concept ought to be
44 checked out real good whenever it shows up anywhere.

45
46 Thanks.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Thank you, Gabe.

49
50 MR. G. SAM: Okay, thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, moving on down we
2 got Kuskokwim Native Association. Nobody, okay. Local
3 village or tribal councils. Go ahead, Ronald.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I'd like to speak for
6 and thank Huslia Tribal Council for sending George Yaska
7 in. He's relatively new as a tribal administrator and I
8 really appreciate his concern to fly in and address
9 Proposal 48 among others. Again, I talked with him after
10 and he seems more than willing to appear before us at our
11 Nulato meeting. So he was in pretty good spirits when he
12 left and I appreciate his coming here.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Gerald.

17
18 MR. NICHOLIA: I'd like to have Vince
19 direct a letter to the Tanana Tribal Council and to the
20 Tanana City Council of their intentions of having our
21 meeting in Tanana next fall.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Was that a letter asking them
24 if they would like to have the meeting, is that.....

25
26 MR. NICHOLIA: Or to ask the Tanana Tribal
27 Council to assist in find houses.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: All right.

30
31 MR. NICHOLIA: That will give my boss to
32 give me direction what to do and for the city -- to give it
33 to the city and then I could direct somebody else.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Can do.

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, getting back to the
38 agenda here. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

39
40 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman.

41
42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Henry.

43
44 MR. DEACON: I can speak on behalf of the
45 village council. We have a lot of concerns in our area for
46 villages. One of the few concerns that we have is the
47 village corporation land. Last fall when we had a meeting
48 down there in Holy Cross, they want to request a closure of
49 those lands, you know, but we really don't know how to do
50 it. And Holy Cross hired local people to kind of look

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1 after the area but I don't know what ever became of it.
2 Those are the kinds of things, the concerns that we have in
3 that area. And I don't know what kind of -- we want help
4 from the Federal and the State to work on some of these
5 problems that we're facing in that area. So that's our
6 biggest concern we have in our villages, impact of hunters
7 and sport fishermens and sport fishermen are coming in
8 fishing, catch fish and let fish go. It's unhealthy for
9 fish to go -- if you catch them with hook and let them go,
10 you don't know if they live or die after that.

11
12 So those are concerns that we have. Innoko Refuge
13 should really check into that because they have the
14 authority to have sportsmen fishermen up there. I don't
15 know about the State, though. But we need to look -- we
16 need help on those direction and you can always contact
17 those four village IRAs.

18
19 That's all I have, thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Henry.
22 Lincoln.

23
24 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, that catching and
25 releasing fish is not as healthy as people make it to be,
26 you know. Because back home we find fish that starve to
27 death because they can't eat, their mouth is all goofed up.

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any more village
30 or tribal concerns.

31
32 MR. STICKMAN: I guess I can speak on
33 behalf of Nulato tribes since I'm the chief. Most of our
34 concerns are being addressed on the Kaiyuh Flats and with
35 the sport fishing industry. So the only other thing that I
36 have is probably maybe for Vince to contact the Nulato
37 tribal staff office and let them know that our fall meeting
38 is going to be in Nulato.

39
40 MS. HILDEBRAND: That's your
41 responsibility.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: With your assistance and
44 we'll have wall tents by your house. No, to be honest with
45 you we'd need the assistance of the Council members that
46 live in the village. Some of the villages know who I am
47 but in general they don't. So it's a lot easier if -- if
48 the letter helps you, but you need to do the ground work so
49 they go, well, this guy wants to have this meeting and that
50 many people in our community, what's going on. So we need

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1 your help in each community. But I can draft letters to
2 both communities saying each Council wants to do that but
3 it helps.

4
5 MR. STICKMAN: Well, I guess in that case
6 we'd need to have an estimation of how much people so we
7 can coordinate housing.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ronald.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, what I'm looking at is
16 just strictly a Western Interior meeting with an invitation
17 of one or two delegates from Eastern or -- and/or Y-K. So
18 throw those two delegates in there, too, with your
19 estimation of people.

20
21 And I got a question for Micky, have we ever met at
22 Nulato?

23
24 MR. STICKMAN: Not that I know of.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. That's why
27 we wanted Nulato, I think.

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any more village
30 concerns? Okay, we'll get down to Alaska Department of
31 Fish and Game, statewide and area biologists. Is anybody
32 here Terry?

33
34 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the wildlife
35 biologist didn't have any additional information to present
36 beyond what was discussed earlier in the meeting. If you
37 have any questions or concerns you'd like taken back to
38 wildlife conservation staff I'd be happy to do that.
39 They're busy getting ready for the Board of Game meeting
40 starting next week.

41
42 Commercial Fisheries Division staff had no
43 additional information to present beyond what they did this
44 morning.

45
46 John Burr from Sportfish Division is here if you
47 have any questions or concerns that you'd like directed to
48 him. And Dave Andersen from Subsistence Division would
49 like to present a very short report to you.

50

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1 And we appreciate the opportunity to be here and
2 take part in the meetings. This is really important to
3 have a joint meeting like this. I know Department Staff
4 have taken the opportunity to meet with a lot of you
5 individually while you've been here during breaks. We want
6 to do everything we can to continue having a good working
7 relationship with you. There are obviously times when
8 we're going to have different points of view but I think
9 we've made a special effort to maintain a good working
10 relationship with the Regional Councils. We certainly work
11 closely with the advisory committees and we want to
12 continue doing that over the future.

13
14 So thanks, again, for allowing us to be here. If
15 you have no questions for me I'll let Dave Andersen present
16 just a short report to you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Hold on, Terry, I
19 think Ray might have a question for you.

20
21 MR. COLLINS: Terry, I've got just one
22 comment. I talked to somebody during the break, one of
23 your biologists but I'll mention it to you to take back. I
24 think it would be helpful if the Department of Fish and
25 Game would start using numbers in terms of predation. Like
26 it says, okay, that 60 percent of the calves are taken,
27 there's no number as to what that means, you know, in terms
28 of survival. We talk about how -- what the hunters are
29 taking but we're not talking about the numbers. So if they
30 generated -- I'm thinking for the general public so that
31 they've got something to compare; how many are being taken
32 by wolves and bears and so on and what does it mean that
33 they're taking 60 percent of the calves every spring, how
34 many calves were born, approximately, you know, out of that
35 number. I just think it might be useful to have that
36 information out for the general public because it sounds
37 like the hunters are taking X numbers, we don't know what
38 the others are taking except maybe a percentage or
39 something.

40
41 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Ray, I'll be
42 happy to pass that on.

43
44 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

47
48 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I'm Dave
49 Andersen with the Division of Subsistence here in
50 Fairbanks. And for the last three years my major spring

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1 project in the Interior here has been the subsistence
2 harvest surveys on the Koyukuk River, five communities
3 there and on the Middle Yukon River, five communities
4 there. And these Councils have been very supportive of the
5 project and I wanted to thank you for that, both the
6 resolution you passed today and the letters that you sent
7 out last October. We were successful in getting fourth
8 year funding for that project that will start next month.
9 So we are going to have fourth year on that.

10
11 Looking down the road, I guess, we're viewing the
12 GASH area as probably the next area where we see a lot of
13 user conflicts coming up where we could really use this
14 kind of harvest information. I know the data coming out of
15 that project have been really useful for the Koyukuk River
16 Moose Hunters Working Group and the package of proposals
17 they've put together for that. So I think if we can ever
18 find funding to expand that project it's probably going to
19 be to the GASH area. Not this year but hopefully in the
20 not to distant future.

21
22 And that's really I've got. Polly Wheeler, my
23 supervisor wanted me to apologize for her absence here.
24 We're really getting ready for the Board of Game and Board
25 of Fish meetings that are going to take up all of March, so
26 she's madly putting stuff together for that but you've got --
27 between Terry and I you got 50 percent of our staff here.
28 So that's all I got.

29
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Go ahead, Ronald.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, have you ever received
33 any correspondence back from the GASH area in trying to
34 establish this house to house survey?

35
36 MR. ANDERSEN: We have not proposed it to
37 GASH. I know Jeff Denton has had a project on the books,
38 trying to get a similar project going there and has met
39 with some difficulties in trying to do it. I think if we
40 don't get this kind of information in the next year or so
41 we'll -- and we have a line on funds to expand the project
42 I've got going on the Middle Yukon and Koyukuk we'll
43 probably start talking with the villages there and see if
44 we can get some support to do it. But we haven't run it by
45 them yet, we haven't tried.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Do you need help in
48 securing funding or would a letter from us help?

49
50 MR. ANDERSEN: Yes, Mr. Chair, I think your

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1 letters are useful. So if you wanted to.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

4
5 MR. ANDERSEN: Like I say, we're fully
6 booked for this year, we're not going to be able to do it
7 this year but 2001 we could think about it.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Yes, as a Western
10 Interior Council member, we are projecting our next problem
11 area to be GASH. We have been trying to deal with the
12 Koyukuk River area so the sooner we get something in place
13 I feel that the sooner we can deal with the problem and
14 that's why I asked.

15
16 Thank you, Dave.

17
18 MR. ANDERSEN: I will add one more thing,
19 we're adding -- this year we're going to add a couple
20 questions to that survey that try and get at hunter effort.
21 It was pointed out, George Yaska mentioned it again this
22 morning that, you know, the subsistence harvest in the
23 villages hardly vary at all. They've been very stable over
24 time. And our data show that. But I suspect that it is
25 only through increased hunter effort that people have been
26 able to get the numbers that they need and we haven't been
27 collecting any information to reflect that. So we're going
28 to try and add a couple questions that get at how many days
29 it takes these hunters to get the moose and the caribou
30 that they're getting so that will be one slight change this
31 year.

32
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you. Is there any
34 more questions.

35
36 MR. NICHOLIA: I have one.

37
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.

39
40 MR. NICHOLIA: One lady asked me, I guess
41 it was Georgina, is when -- she wondered when you guys are
42 going to do it in Tanana?

43
44 MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah, I just sent out
45 letters to all the local project assistants we had last
46 year and Georgina did mail me back a note so I've had some
47 recent contact with her. Right now it looks like 100
48 percent of the people we had last year are going to sign up
49 to do it again so we'll have an experienced crew working on
50 it. I'll be getting survey materials out to people in

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1 March and we typically do the survey in the month of April.
2 So that's when it's going to take place.

3
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any further questions.
5 Okay, thank you.

6
7 MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Do we have any questions
10 for the state of Alaska Sportfish Division? Go ahead.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: I'll reiterate Henry's
13 concern for catch and release for certain species of fish.
14 I also am concerned for certain species of fish under catch
15 and release and I discussed with John Burr here during one
16 of the breaks about more educational programs for sport
17 fishermen on proper handling of fish. Because I seen on --
18 I sent in a video that I taped off of TV of mishandling of
19 sheefish and I would expect a 50 percent mortality on the
20 way they were handling those fish. And it would be nice if
21 some of this fisheries funding could go towards training or
22 producing a video that would be helpful to educate sports
23 fishermen on reducing mortality. Because all of those fish
24 that are lost are subsequently part of the subsistence
25 catch. So that's just one aspect that I thought I'd bring
26 out to the Councils.

27
28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Jack.

29
30 MR. BURR: Mr. Chairman, John Burr with the
31 Sportsfish Division. Jack's right there's a large amount
32 of variability in the successful release of fish and it has
33 everything to do with education and how the fish are
34 handled. And there is huge opportunity to educate
35 potential users of these resources and we certainly would
36 welcome additional resources to continue our effort to
37 educate potential anglers.

38
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other questions for
40 John.

41
42 MR. COLLINS: John, what about the role of
43 something like large pike and so on, do they play a
44 significant role in the breeding stock and so on and is
45 that information available? Maybe just making people aware
46 of that, if they have a significant role.

47
48 MR. BURR: The biology of pike is such
49 that, you know, the very large fish are quite often
50 females, by and large they are females and they are really

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1 important to the overall stock health. It's one of the
2 indicators that we use for assessing the population of pike
3 if we don't have any other kinds of information. Yeah,
4 and, again, there are all kinds of educational
5 opportunities.

6
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you. Go ahead,
8 there, Benedict.

9
10 MR. JONES: Several years ago, I don't know
11 whether it was Fish and Wildlife was doing a satellite
12 study on the northern pike in the Kaiyuh Flats area. They
13 put some chips into the pike and they were doing a study of
14 their migration area. Are you aware of that?

15
16 MR. BURR: Yes. Actually that was, again,
17 one of the projects where Fish and Wildlife Service and
18 Fish and Game worked together to do that radio-tagging of
19 pike in the Kaiyuh Flats area. And I believe the objective
20 of that study was primarily to locate where these fish were
21 spawning and look at their migration routes within the
22 Kaiyuh Flats.

23
24 MR. JONES: Are they still surviving?

25
26 MR. BURR: We have not had any studies in
27 the Kaiyuh Flats since that time. We have no new
28 information that would indicate that things have changed in
29 the Kaiyuh Flats as far as the level of mortality from
30 either subsistence or sport fisheries. At the end of that
31 study the indication was that that stock was in fine shape.

32
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other questions for
34 John. Go ahead.

35
36 MR. STICKMAN: Let's see I have to think
37 for a while, but with the increase in sport fishing, I just
38 wanted to go on record with supporting Jack's idea of some
39 kind of study being done on how much fish are actually
40 dying after they catch and release. Because the Kaiyuh
41 Flats, it is -- the sports fishermen are moving into the
42 area, are doing catch and release.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Jack.

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to make a motion
49 to incorporate these two ideas of catch and release
50 mortality and the education of sports fishermen to reduce

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1 mortality into, you know, getting funded to be able to
2 alleviate these problems.

3
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, do I hear a second.

5
6 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.

7
8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, it's been moved and
9 seconded. Is there any more discussion on it.

10
11 MR. NICHOLIA: Question.

12
13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question's been called.
14 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

19
20 (No opposing votes)

21
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So Vince has another
23 thing to write up.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: This would be a letter to ask
26 for a study on catch and release mortality and education;
27 is this what we're saying, directed to the Alaska
28 Department of Fish and Game? I don't know where you wanted
29 it to go.

30
31 MR. COLLINS: The Federal agencies also
32 because they're managing some Kaiyuh Flats in some of these
33 areas.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: So it'd be targeted for the
36 Kaiyuh Flats?

37
38 MR. REAKOFF: Federal waters.

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Statewide.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Statewide?

43
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Statewide.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, you know, you got
49 the same problems wherever you got sport fishing. So I
50 mean if we're going to do it why just do it for one area?

00444

1 MR. FLEENER: North of the 49th parallel.

2

3 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 MR. NICHOLIA: I'd say just direct this
6 letter to John Burr and the state of Alaska Sportsfish
7 Division. That's where, if they're going to deal -- offer
8 sport fishing in Alaska they'll have to give some education
9 on catch and release and mortality and how to do it right.

10

11 MR. FLEENER: You didn't have anything to
12 do this summer, did you, John.

13

14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Did you have something
15 there, Terry?

16

17 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I might just
18 suggest that you consider this as a proposal for
19 consideration for the 2001 Federal fisheries funding, that
20 would be one avenue.

21

22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Would that work.....

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: That would be the most
25 logical avenue.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: It'd be a worthwhile project.

28

29 MR. FLEENER: And let the village do the
30 study.

31

32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So.....

33

34 MR. FLEENER: So let it be done.

35

36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, Ida, you got a --
37 here comes our legal advisor.

38

39 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
40 Committee member. Again, I refer you back to the
41 discussion we had in the subcommittee with Taylor and
42 Chuck, and they were specifically looking for your
43 information and input into projects for April 2000 and for
44 2001. And I believe this was on their list but as a member
45 of that working group I will add this to their list. But
46 if you wish to do motions and letters to direct them that's
47 just added to your statement.

48

49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, thank you, Ida.
50 Did you want to do this in a proposal form, Jack?

00445

1 MR. REAKOFF: Crag.

2
3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Craig.

4
5 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Before
6 you make a motion it might be good since this is a -- if
7 you're doing a catch and release study, I think you can
8 probably set your motion to where local people could be
9 involved in doing this project. If you just direct or
10 request a study we don't know who's going to be doing it.
11 But I think it's the type of project that can be done
12 locally. But I think Ida has something to say to me.

13
14 MS. HILDEBRAND: I think we're running long
15 and confusing and tiring ourselves. The Federal mandate
16 from the Federal Board is that any projects we do in fish
17 management, fish studies must include and involve the local
18 people. If the local people are prepared to come forward
19 and provide the service, are fully qualified to do the
20 service, that's already a part of the program. And the
21 proposals for projects is just a recommendation of the
22 Council, you don't have to go into a particular proposal
23 form.

24
25 MR. FLEENER: Thanks, Ida. I just wanted
26 to make it clear that that was an option. I know that
27 several of the projects that have been proposed are going
28 to be done by University students from the state of
29 Washington and several other places. But just for
30 suggesting a proposal, I guess, that's fine.

31
32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, I got a question
33 for Jack. Jack, you were talking about an education thing
34 here, weren't you, trying to educate the fishermen on how
35 to handle when you're fishing catch and release?

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: There was two parts to these
38 ideas. One was finding out what the mortalities are on
39 catch and release. The other aspect was educating the
40 sport fishermen on proper handling to reduce that and that
41 could affect thousands and thousands of fish. So that
42 would be very worthwhile to make recommendation to the
43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sportfish Division and
44 to the Fish and Wildlife Service to develop educational
45 media to, you know, like in discussion at a break, you
46 know, they could have a TV at the airport and a video there
47 and all these sport fishermen are hanging around waiting
48 for the next plane, they could learn on how to handle fish.
49 Because they don't know what they're doing, they're just
50 killing fish right and left.

00446

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, we got the same
2 problem with sport hunters, too, out there.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: Well, right.

5
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other questions for
7 John. Thank you for your time. Moving down, anything from
8 Wildlife Conser -- what do you want?

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: You have a motion on the
11 floor, Mr. Chair, or did that pass?

12
13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I thought we did that
14 already. Oh, we didn't, I thought you called for question.

15
16 MR. GOOD: He did.

17
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, well -- we didn't
19 vote on this yet?

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: No, we didn't vote yet.

22
23 MR. COLLINS: I don't think we actually
24 voted did we?

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: No.

27
28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. All in favor of,
29 what is it a proposal?

30
31 MR. REAKOFF: A proposal for catch and
32 release mortality and for an educational program to reduce
33 catch and release mortality.

34
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, all in favor of
36 whatever Jack said, signify by saying aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

41
42 (No opposing votes)

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Let the record reflect that I
45 do understand what's going on here, that there will be a
46 letter on the report part and the other will be education,
47 jointly with Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game on the education of sport
49 fishing. So it's clear where we're going.

50

00447

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, thank you, Vince.
2 Is there anybody here from Wildlife Conservation? Thank
3 you, Terry, especially for sticking it out for all three
4 days here.

5
6 MR. HAYNES: Happy to be here.

7
8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Moving right into Friday
9 morning.

10
11 MR. FLEENER: All right.

12
13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there anybody here
14 from BLM?

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jeff Denton is here.

17
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, Jeff Denton come to
19 the table please.

20
21 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairs. I'm
22 Jeff Denton with the Anchorage Field Office of BLM. The
23 northern district field officer personnel have left to
24 other commitments this evening. They extend their
25 apologies to the Councils. They also told me they don't
26 have a lot of information to give you that hasn't already
27 been covered so that makes it quick.

28
29 They did want me to advise you again that Tim Kreig
30 is the new biologist that will be working with the Western
31 group here. He replaces Dave Yokel. And we have some new
32 personnelwise, BLMwise. Last fall I noted to you folks our
33 new state director and member on the Board would be Fran
34 Cherry. We now also have an associate state director who
35 will probably frequently be sitting in on the Board
36 meetings as well, her name is Linda Reidell. So there will
37 be some new faces and some folks that probably aren't very
38 familiar with the subsistence program so they've got a
39 pretty steep learning curve. So just to advise you because
40 you guys are used to turn over on the Board, I guess.

41
42 Last fall we had noted some, you know, I guess
43 delinquency in the Lime Village harvest reporting system
44 and Carl had said at that time, Carl Morgan, that he would
45 talk to those folks, I assume that he did, those reporting
46 efforts are back on track and I greatly appreciate and
47 extend my thanks to him if it's due, if not, whoever, I
48 guess. So I appreciate that. I will have a five year
49 report as soon as I get the time amongst the 20,000 other
50 things and you folks will get a copy of that five year

00448

1 report.

2

3 There are several -- BLM received this year from
4 the Yukon Fisheries Association efforts in Washington,
5 D.C., from Stevens about \$700,000 to apply to Yukon River
6 fisheries work. And some of that will be interfaced with a
7 lot of existing Fish and Wildlife Service and some of the
8 subsistence fisheries dollars as well into ongoing
9 projects. And we're going to start doing some small stream
10 surveys for their contribution to the salmon fisheries that
11 -- we don't have an idea of species, of salmon, that are in
12 some of these headwater streams, in particular, what their
13 contribution is to the overall Yukon fisheries. And so
14 this is kind of the beginning of an effort to get some of
15 that information.

16

17 Also there's the study by Fish and Wildlife
18 Service, they have Nulato radio-tagged fish and towers to
19 basically identify percentages of chinooks and chums coming
20 up the Yukon River into which river systems they're going
21 into. They're going to initiate work on the Innoko and
22 several streams all the way to the Canadian border. So
23 it's a fairly large scale type study and I don't have the
24 details of these, our fisheries people are the ones that
25 are coordinating most of that with Fish and Wildlife and
26 subsistence and Fish and Game. And there's several
27 escapement projects that are also associated with them.

28

29 As far as Dave Andersen's future efforts,
30 potentially for the GASH area for subsistence harvest and
31 use reporting, we would gladly support that effort,
32 probably partially with personnel as well as dollars. We
33 think it's critical that we get that information. We may
34 want to work together. There are some specific questions
35 we may add to the questionnaires that address the Federal
36 lands and Federal subsistence program that the State
37 questionnaires to-date have never really covered but
38 they're fairly pertinent to the Federal program. So if
39 that could be worked out we would certainly like to do
40 that.

41

42 Other than that, if you have any questions, shoot,
43 I guess.

44

45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Do either of the Boards
46 have any questions. I see none, thank you.

47

48 MR. DENTON: Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Fish and Wildlife

00449

1 Service.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll cover
4 the one on migratory bird management bodies. Both of your
5 Councils supported the management body option of having the
6 Regional Councils be that option. The Regional Director
7 has not made his final decision yet so once that's happened
8 it will be released and then it will be mailed to you. At
9 this point that decision has not been made. So that's the
10 summary, unless someone else has got late-breaking news on
11 that. But that's what I have on migratory birds.

12

13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, thank you, Vince.
14 We'll move into refuges now. We'll start off with Eastern
15 Interior, the Arctic Yukon Flats and Tetlin.

16

17 MR. McCLELLAN: Yes, Mr. Chair, my name is
18 Greg McClellan with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
19 I'm in a shared position with the Yukon Flats, Arctic and
20 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuges and I have a couple short
21 reports for the Yukon Flats and the Arctic Refuge. And
22 then this is Paul Williams, the Refuge information
23 technician for the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

24

25 Yesterday morning I handed out Refuge reports for
26 both the Yukon Flats and Arctic National Wildlife Refuges
27 at your chairs. Just quickly, as Davey James had mentioned
28 earlier, the Refuge did a moose survey in 25(D) west and
29 the results are summarized in the write up there. And as
30 Davey mentioned we had assistance with somebody from
31 Stevens Village in the survey. Also in the writeup is an
32 update on the results from the Refuge moose calf mortality
33 study. And also I wanted to mention that the Refuge is
34 looking at doing a multi year project to look at moose
35 habitat in the Yukon Flats and, I know Mark Bertrem, our
36 lead biologist, has had discussions with Mr. Fleener on
37 that.

38

39 And then the final thing to note, the Refuge,
40 again, had a couple challenge cost share agreements that
41 were funded for this coming year with Stevens Village that
42 are kind of continuations of studies that were done last
43 year. One was -- or projects that were done last year, one
44 was looking at the northern pike fishery in the Dall River
45 and that's also in cooperation with ADF&G and Mr. Burr.

46

47 So I'll leave that and be happy to answer any
48 questions concerning the Yukon Flats that you might have.

49

50 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any questions from the

00450

1 Board. Okay, Davey.

2

3 MR. D. JAMES: Greg, last fall, you know,
4 where is the Refuge, Yukon Flats and Arctic National
5 Wildlife, you know, into getting another position just like
6 Paul's position?

7

8 MR. McCLELLAN: For the Arctic Refuge, they
9 have for the last -- about year and a half they've had
10 student Joanna Gustofson, she's currently going to the
11 University of Alaska-Fairbanks and they've had her in this
12 program called the Step Program. Where last summer she
13 worked with the Refuge and then she also has worked part-
14 time during the school year and we've had discussions with
15 possibly this coming summer after she graduates to do a
16 joint job with having the Refuge pay part of her salary and
17 working part-time for the Refuge and then also having the
18 Native village of Venetie tribal government pay for part of
19 her salary. So that's movement on that front for Arctic
20 National Wildlife Refuge.

21

22 As far as an additional RIT for the Yukon Flats
23 National Wildlife Refuge, again, that's something that
24 we've requested through our budgeting programs and we
25 haven't received additional funding for that be we also do
26 local hire programs and have hired additional people, you
27 know, during the summer, like Billy Jestal from Fort Yukon
28 for the last two summers.

29

30 MR. D. JAMES: My other question is that
31 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has a manager?

32

33 MR. McCLELLAN: Yes.

34

35 MR. D. JAMES: We never did see him here
36 for the last two meetings.

37

38 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, that's kind of noted
39 in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge report. I apologize
40 for that but there's an Arctic Borderland Ecological
41 Cooperative meeting in Old Crow that is occurring at this
42 same time. Both he and the biologist for Arctic National
43 Wildlife Refuge, Fran Mawer are attending that meeting.

44

45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any more
46 questions. No, thank you.

47

48 MR. McCLELLAN: Then I guess just two quick
49 notes for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. One, just happy
50 to note that a significant portion of the Porcupine Caribou

00451

1 herd has been wintering in the Arctic Village area this
2 winter. And the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska
3 Department of Fish and Game and the Yukon Department of
4 Renewable Resource are planning on doing a photocensus of
5 the Porcupine Caribou herd this summer. It's something
6 that they normally try to do every two to three years. And
7 in conjunction and in preparation for that, the Refuge is
8 hoping to radio-collar about 15 caribou in the Arctic
9 Village area in March or April and we've been coordinating
10 that with the Native village of Venetie tribal government
11 and the Arctic Village Council.

12
13 And so if there is any other questions on the
14 Arctic Refuge I'd be happy to try to answer those.

15
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Calvin.

17
18 MR. C. TRITT: You're going to reschedule
19 that trip to Arctic.

20
21 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah.

22
23 MR. C. TRITT: Appreciate it.

24
25 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah.

26
27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more questions.

28
29 MR. McCLELLAN: Okay, thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So you got anything for
32 us Paul.

33
34 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

35
36 MR. GOOD: That's my kid, a man of few
37 words.

38
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I guess we'll move into
40 Western. I'll let Ronald go ahead and take care of the
41 Refuges there in the Western.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we had Gene Williams
44 from Kanuti -- I mean Koyukuk and Nowitna; is he still
45 around?

46
47 MS. HILDEBRAND: No.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, I think we pretty well
50 covered this unless our Council members want to bring it

00452

1 up. At this time I would like to introduce Barry Whitehill
2 and Lisa Saperstein, Kanuti Wildlife Refuge. Do we have
3 more members -- more from Kanuti -- okay.

4
5 MR. WHITEHILL: Chairs and Council members,
6 I'm Barry Whitehill, assistant manager at Kanuti National
7 Wildlife Refuge. First off, quickly, I was supposed to
8 pass on an apology from Tom Early, the manager, he just had
9 his foot operated on and it's in preparation actually for
10 him to walk out the door when he retires early July, so I
11 wanted to pass that on, there will be a change after 10
12 years that he's done a wonderful job in that capacity. And
13 so with that, Lisa Saperstein is our wildlife biologist at
14 Kanuti Refuge.

15
16 Quickly, since we talked about public service
17 announcements. I have been involved with a science camp
18 that we've been trying to recreate every two years and I
19 thought I'd take this opportunity, it's actually a
20 collaboration between several entities that have been in
21 this meeting off and on, Alaska Department of Fish and
22 Game, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management,
23 Tanana Chiefs. And what I have hot off the press and I
24 thought I would distribute to you Council members are the
25 applications for this years camp because you represent the
26 areas that we're trying to identify to try to get students
27 and students would be 14 to 20. The camp would be at Twin
28 Bears. We would bring them in for 10 days. And in the
29 course of that camp, we would have them be involved with
30 actual natural resource projects and, indeed, what we'll do
31 again this year is have the students set up their own
32 study. And in this case, population study with small
33 mammals and work with university on crunching numbers and
34 they would set it up so they get some experience there.
35 It's designed for students that, some may want to go on
36 with careers in natural resources, others may want to be
37 like yourselves, serve on councils, and it's an
38 opportunity, we hope, to have them network with
39 professionals and have a better understanding of some of
40 the processes involved in getting information. And we also
41 feel important that Native knowledge, we've had elders that
42 have helped us in the past to be a part of this and so we
43 try to bring to the table a well-rounded experience. So
44 with that, quickly, what I'd like to do I'll just pass it
45 around on both sides, if it's all right, the application
46 form and also a quick poster that we just got hot off the
47 press. And if somebody wants more information, please, let
48 me know and I'll be glad to provide that.

49
50 I'm going to pass out a revised moose census

00453

1 information and Lisa will explain that as well.

2

3 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you, Chairman, and
4 Council members. The most significant thing that we've
5 done probably since the October meeting is the moose
6 census, which Glenn Stout covered during his report. That
7 census covered a total of 8,390 square miles and the Kanuti
8 National Wildlife Refuge was within that. And we made sure
9 we surveyed enough plots in the Refuge that we could pull
10 that data out and compare it to previous surveys. You have
11 a copy of the summary in your book, I'm not sure what tab
12 it's under. And you'll note that it says preliminary on
13 it, well, the ADF&G statistician did rerun the numbers, we
14 did not have the calf/cow ratio before and he did find
15 another error. Glenn did not have time to incorporate this
16 into his table so the one that Barry just handed out is the
17 most recent. And the estimate for the entire area stays
18 the same but the Kanuti estimate, there was a slight
19 increase and the new estimate is 1,052 animals. I think
20 the old one was something like 891 or close to 900. And we
21 do now have a calf/cow ratio and that was 28 per hundred
22 cows. And we just got those new results on Friday from the
23 Fish and Game statistician.

24

25 You'll note that compared to the 1993 and the 1989
26 estimates, there has been a decline since 1993 and a
27 decline since 1989 but if you look at the range of the
28 estimate it overlaps between 1989 and 1999, although the
29 survey area did incorporate a greater area in 1999.

30

31 Next week we'll be flying aerial transects looking
32 at moose distribution on the Refuge and relating that to
33 habitat. We did this last year and presented the results
34 at the October meeting. We fly 16 lines that go across the
35 Refuge from north to south as well as four river corridors.
36 This is the third year of the survey but it's the first
37 year that we've had deep snow. And we've also been
38 checking our snow markers and as of February 3rd, the
39 average at our six snow markers was 25 and a half inches.
40 And that ranges from nine inches, near Kanuti Chalatna
41 Creek in the southern portion to 41 inches to just south of
42 Bettles at Mingkoket Lake. And according to reports by the
43 Natural Resources Conservation Service, at Bettles there
44 was 34 inches of snow on February 1st and the long-term
45 average snow-depth for Bettles for this time period between
46 1961 and 1990 was 26 inches. So right now we're a bit
47 above average compared to the previous two years when we
48 were below.

49

50 Real quickly, wolves, we have four packs collared

00454

1 on and near the Refuge. All together there's about 43
2 animals in the collared packs and that includes nine wolves
3 that are off the Refuge up the Alatna River. There was
4 also a pack seen around Bonanza Creek of about eight or
5 nine wolves but I recently heard reports that someone
6 trapped pretty much that whole pack. So there's about 43
7 wolves using the Refuge that we know of through collars and
8 that, of course, does not include packs that might be
9 around that don't have collars or lone wolves moving
10 through. But at this point, that's the best number we can
11 come up with. And we're hoping to do a wolf census this
12 year. We tried to do it last year and didn't get the
13 weather conditions. We need about four to six inches of
14 fresh snow, cover all tracks and then about three days of
15 good flying weather afterwards, and we got in one day of
16 surveying last year before the weather just went down.

17
18 Finally, we did receive one Challenge grant this
19 year, I'm working, well, actually two because the
20 Earthquest is a Challenge cost share grant. And we
21 received one to take a look at shrinking lake levels in the
22 Allakaket and Alatna area. And this was in response to
23 Stanley Ned of TCC had called looking for information about
24 using, say, satellite imagery and other techniques to
25 examine this phenomenon that's been really -- heard reports
26 about throughout the Interior. So I'm not quite sure how
27 we're going to approach that yet, a combination of
28 satellite imagery, aerial photos and on the ground work as
29 well as talking to people who live in the area to determine
30 what lake would be good to look at or what lakes and what
31 they've seen over time.

32
33 Any questions.
34

35 MR. GOOD: The trapper that came in and
36 took out a pack of wolves, did you give them an award?

37
38 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Excuse me.
39

40 MR. GOOD: You mentioned that a trapper
41 came in and took out a pack of wolves, did you give them an
42 award? I couldn't resist.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Sam.
45

46 MR. HENRY: According to my aunt, I was
47 telling her about all the lakes drying up and everything up
48 in Kanuti, and she said it happened quite a few years ago
49 when there was hardly any snow for about, gee it was five
50 or six years in a row, and she said this winter is a lot of

00455

1 snow so there's going to be -- all the lakes are going to
2 fill up again. And I was telling her about Robert Nick's
3 concern about beaver dams down in the lower Kuskokwim and
4 she said there was not enough snow to fill up those lakes
5 and when those lakes get full it overflows and over the
6 beaver dam and those fish goes over. And she said it's
7 going to happen this year because there's a lot of snow.

8
9 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you, Samson. One of
10 the things that we'd like to do as part of this project is
11 get some of that on paper and recorded information,
12 traditional knowledge, those types of things.

13
14 MR. HENRY: Well, she's going to have a
15 book out pretty soon so you could probably read that book.

16
17 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Okay.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
20 Kanuti?

21
22 MR. D. JAMES: Yeah, Lisa.

23
24 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Uh-huh.

25
26 MR. D. JAMES: I want to thank you and your
27 boss there for your report there. Because, you know,
28 hopefully this will spill more into other Refuge or State's
29 management plans, where you guys are always looking at your
30 snow depths, your lakes, you guys are using traditional
31 knowledge, and you guys went ahead with this wolf survey.
32 And I've been pushing, you know, for wolf surveys all
33 winter long, so I finally just give up on the State and the
34 Feds and I wrote letters to corporations, tribal
35 corporations there to support me on wolf surveys and I got
36 one letter back there so I'll be doing -- working on that
37 there, too.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I also want to
46 comment Kanuti for all the varied projects that they have
47 gathering data. They have a lot of innovative ideas about
48 resource data gathering. And Lisa was the only source of
49 wound/loss statistics that I received, so -- so far. So I
50 want to thank Kanuti for their presentation.

00456

1 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more
4 questions. Go ahead, Calvin.

5

6 MR. C. TRITT: I just want to commend you
7 on how you try to work with culture knowledge. I think you
8 guys are on the right track.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Lincoln.

13

14 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, I just want to add
15 that in some of those -- when you have lakes draining and
16 stuff like that you also need to watch the -- check out the
17 permafrost because a lot of areas the permafrost are pretty
18 far down and you get between the lakes and the rivers, it
19 kind of knock down the barriers and lakes drain into other
20 lakes and stuff like that.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Craig.

23

24 MR. FLEENER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just
25 think both of you got too many compliments and I just want
26 to say I'm mad at both of you. Just kidding.

27

28 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Well, we appreciate the
29 comments of the Council, thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.
32 Questions. If not, I guess, both Councils spoke for both
33 Chairs that we think you're doing a good job. Thank you.
34 And I'm glad that you are finally going to do a fly-over
35 again.

36

37 Thank you. Thank you, Barry.

38

39 Innoko, I see you're here.

40

41 MS. REID: Thank you. Laura Reid, I'm
42 assistant manager at Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. And
43 I'd like to start off by mentioning that we do have a new
44 manager. After 10 years Ed Merritt transferred to Tetlin
45 National Wildlife Refuge in Tok and our new manager is Bill
46 Schaff, S-C-H-A-F-F, and unfortunately he had a prior
47 commitment, even before he took the job to come here and he
48 couldn't be at this meeting so he sends his apologies and
49 looks forward to meeting you all at the next Council
50 meeting. But I'm here.

00457

1 Go ahead, did you want to say something?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray, did you have any
4 questions right off the bat?

5

6 MR. COLLINS: No, she's got a report.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, I thought she was
9 pointing at you. Go right ahead, please.

10

11 MS. REID: Okay. In the last four months
12 since we last met, one of the things that we've
13 accomplished and worked on was we worked with Alaska
14 Department of Fish and Game, U.S.G.S. Biological Resource
15 Division and a statistical firm who we work with regularly
16 on all our projects, on a moose habitat carrying capacity
17 workshop that was attended by over 70 Federal and State
18 workers, and we did that in January. And as a result of
19 this workshop there's several refuges that are working on
20 plans right now to study moose habitat and carrying
21 capacity. And we feel this is just a really important
22 piece of the puzzle understanding natural fluctuations in
23 moose populations, looking at the habitat and the ability
24 of the land to support the moose.

25

26 And I was interested in hearing what the project
27 you'd be working on, Craig, in looking at the vegetation
28 because that's a project that we worked on for five years,
29 looking at moose brows and looking at how much is available
30 and how much the moose are using that as an indicator as
31 well as the health of the moose population, and another
32 piece of the puzzle. You know, there's lots of factors
33 that we need to consider when we're talking about
34 fluctuations in moose populations. So I'd be happy to
35 share that information with you, Craig, we've got several
36 papers that we put together and manuals and those sorts of
37 things to do these types of projects.

38

39 We're also working on a video, a digital video
40 survey technique to survey furbearers, including marten,
41 wolverine, lynx, and wolves. And we're working with this
42 project with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as well
43 and U.S.G.S. Biological Resource Division, and also the
44 statistical firm out of Wyoming. And we did some
45 preliminary work last year and we were hoping to do a
46 project this March on the end of our moose survey and test
47 out the technique. But if it works, according to a
48 furbearer specialist with the Alaska Department of Fish and
49 Game, we'll not only be able to get a trend analysis on
50 these different furbearer species but also a population

00458

1 estimate, which should be good information to have and it's
2 very difficult to get this information. So we'll see how
3 that works out and maybe I'll have some more information
4 for you all at the next Council meeting.

5

6 I also mentioned before that we're planning on
7 conducting our moose survey starting March 12th, and I'll
8 have results from that on the next meeting.

9

10 And let's see, we're also doing -- during this
11 moose survey, we're not only flying a line transect method
12 but we're also going to use this digital video survey to
13 see if we could use that for moose surveys as well, which
14 would mean that it'd be less expensive to do moose surveys
15 and it would be safer, and perhaps more meaningful, the
16 information that we get off of them. So we're testing that
17 along side of our line transect method, we're also doing a
18 digital video survey, moose survey at the same time and
19 then testing -- and then comparing the two methods and
20 seeing if we can use this technique.

21

22 Also another thing we're going to be working on
23 this summer that I would ask support of the villages within
24 our Refuge boundary, outside our Refuge boundary, these
25 resources is a migratory waterfowl harvest survey. You
26 know, they're amending the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to
27 provide for spring waterfowl hunting and we're looking for
28 information on the level and dependency on waterfowl as a
29 subsistence species. And Orville Huntington out of
30 Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge has done this project in his area
31 and is going to work with us coordinating with our
32 biologist to hire one person from each village to go door-
33 to-door and basically do a survey of level of harvest in
34 the spring and in the fall. So it's really important
35 information if you want to be represented that you provide
36 this information, and that's what it's going to be used for
37 and nothing else. Just to document that use.

38

39 We recognize the need for baseline information on
40 fisheries including -- beyond salmon. And we looked at a
41 project to do this year to look at some fish species with
42 density and distribution, find out where the fish are at
43 and it's going to be a challenge to do in a place like the
44 Innoko River, it's such a dynamic system. The River goes
45 up and down so much, the fish move around so much. And the
46 idea that we had once we talked to the fisheries folks in
47 Fairbanks just wouldn't work, it would just be so intense
48 and we really wouldn't get the information we needed. But
49 we do have the counting towers coming in in the next two
50 years that the fisheries office is going to be putting in.

00459

1 And if nothing else, we're going to do a fish species
2 presence absence study to find out -- make sure that we
3 know all the fisheries that we have, the fish species we
4 have in the Innoko River and the Iditarod Rivers. So
5 that's another project we would like to start working on.
6

7 And finally in April we begin to recruit students
8 for our environmental education science camp. We recruit
9 students from the Iditarod area school district villages
10 like Holy Cross, Grayling, Shageluk. And it's an
11 opportunity to bring the students in and they learn about
12 our programs and about this tremendous resource that they
13 live with from a different perspective, a scientific
14 perspective. And this has been really successful for us,
15 we've brought a lot of students into our Refuges employees,
16 through the RAPS (ph) program. And we even had a success
17 story of a student from McGrath, Kevin Wentworth, who's
18 gone on to Montana -- University of Montana in the wildlife
19 biology program, and we look forward to him coming out and
20 combining his traditional knowledge with his scientific
21 background and being real effective with the Fish and
22 Wildlife Service as a biologist or a Refuge manager. So we
23 see this as a tool, not only as educating the students but
24 also looking for future Fish and Wildlife Service employees
25 from the local villages.
26

27 So with that, I'll close, and any questions that
28 you might have.
29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, right off the bat,
31 when you did your study on moose brows, it was one of our
32 important concerns during the Koyukuk River Moose Working
33 Group, was there anyone involved from UAF?
34

35 MS. REID: University of Alaska, yes, uh-
36 huh.
37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Because it was very
39 interesting. Did you say the study was completed?
40

41 MS. REID: We had a five year study and we
42 actually had a student do a master's program looking at the
43 plants before the moose utilized them and then after. We
44 went out and we actually tagged a thousand willow plants,
45 measured them, did architecture of the plant and then went
46 back in the spring and went back and measured all these
47 thousand plants again as part of his master's project and
48 looked to see what part of the willow they used. And
49 because you can look at willow and you can say, well, he
50 didn't touched this but what part of the willow do they

00460

1 use, that's important information to know. And so we
2 involved the University in that project, and this was a
3 five year project that we did. And we're actually going to
4 do it again this year because we're doing our moose survey.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The other question I
7 had, I mean comment, request maybe, when you complete your
8 study on furbearers, see if you can project some fur
9 prices, too.

10
11 MS. REID: Okay. All right.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Samson.

14
15 MR. HENRY: Are you familiar with that
16 bunch of moose that was supposed to be going to Barrow and
17 then it died or from vitamin deficiency or something? And
18 then I was wondering if you knew what kind of vitamins they
19 were missing or whatever and when they died?

20
21 MS. REID: No, I haven't heard about that.
22 Going to Barrow, moose that were going to Barrow?

23
24 MR. HENRY: Yeah, they were going around
25 the coast up around Barrow, there was about 150 moose and
26 they died off of vitamin deficiencies.

27
28 MS. REID: Really. Do you know who studied
29 that, was it the State?

30
31 MR. HENRY: No, that was a few years ago.

32
33 MS. REID: Oh, no, I didn't know about
34 that. That really is an important piece of the puzzle,
35 though, is the nutrition that the moose get out of the
36 plants and that's something we're also going to be looking
37 at. There's just so many things, so many variables in
38 looking at the habitat that you need to consider when
39 you're looking at healthy moose populations.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

42
43 MR. DEACON: I think at the last meeting I
44 kind of requested how much moose has been taken out of the
45 Innoko Refuge, lower and upper, survey, and also wolf pack.
46 I think I requested that in the Aniak meeting and so I
47 wanted to know so I can be better equipped for future
48 meetings.

49
50 MS. REID: Well, after we do our moose

00461

1 survey we'll have some wolf numbers as well. And the
2 digital video survey, too, will give us some wolf numbers,
3 but I don't have that right here with me now but I'll get
4 that for you Henry.

5
6 MR. DEACON: Also.....

7
8 MS. REID: As well as the harvest.

9
10 MR. DEACON: Yeah, also how many impact
11 hunters are those, outside hunters going into those areas,
12 that's the concerns we have in our area.

13
14 MS. REID: Sure, I understand that.

15
16 MR. DEACON: How much hunters coming in
17 with how much meat and how much waste and everything.

18
19 MS. REID: Uh-huh, that's why we did the
20 intensive law enforcement effort last fall in response to
21 that concern and we did issue a number of citations. Some
22 of the operators we thought weren't operating up to snuff
23 or were doing a good and so, you know, it was based on
24 reports that we got from local concerns and we looked at
25 those operations and couldn't find anything that we could
26 take to court. And that's really important. But, you
27 know, we have the same concerns and we do hope to continue,
28 and our new manager is supportive of the law enforcement
29 that we put forth last year and so we hope to continue that
30 effort again this fall and continue to monitor that.

31
32 MR. DEACON: I think the students like
33 that, going up Innoko River, learning about -- because
34 that's their area and I hope that keeps up in the future,
35 you know.

36
37 MS. REID: The science camp, yes,
38 definitely.

39
40 MR. DEACON: So that's good. I really have
41 good comments on those law enforcement last fall, you know,
42 so I hope you keep that up.

43
44 MS. REID: Yes, we want to.

45
46 MR. DEACON: Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

49
50 MR. COLLINS: How long is your moose survey

00462

1 going to be this spring, I think my wife's going out as a
2 cook, I'm wondering.....

3
4 MS. REID: March 12th through the 19th.

5
6 MR. COLLINS: The 19th, okay.

7
8 MS. REID: Yeah, you'll have to cook for
9 yourself. We'll send something back for you on the plane.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: If there are no further
12 questions, thank you for that report. Those studies, I
13 think will really give us some ammunition, thank you.

14
15 MS. REID: Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does anyone want to cover
18 Koyukuk/Nowitna? I think we've pretty well covered it.
19 Okay, I'll turn the Chair back to Chuck.

20
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, we're down to -- is
22 anybody here from the National Park Service that would like
23 to say something?

24
25 MR. TWITCHELL: I'm here if there's any
26 questions for Denali, I'd be happy to answer them.
27 Otherwise, considering the time of day, I don't have any
28 additional information to add.

29
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any questions for Hollis.
31 Hearing none, thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, thank you for your
34 brevity.

35
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We're down to.....

37
38 MR. SUMMERS: Mr. Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Oh, gee, I almost forgot
41 you there, Clarence.

42
43 MR. SUMMERS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, Council
44 members, my name is Clarence Summers. I'm with the
45 National Park Service. I've got two items.

46
47 Item 1, the Eastern Interior Regional Council has
48 an opportunity to reappoint or to make a new appointment to
49 the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission.
50 Currently Frank Enstminger serves in that position, it's a

00463

1 three year term. So that's one item.

2

3 Item 2, Mr. Ulvi, Steve Ulvi had to leave but he
4 wanted me to remind you that the Gates of the Arctic draft
5 subsistence management plan is available for public comment
6 and copies are available at the Gates of the Arctic here in
7 Fairbanks. And the public comment period closes on March
8 25th.

9

10 And that's my last item, thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Thank you,
13 Clarence. Go ahead, Craig.

14

15 MR. FLEENER: Do we reappoint Frank
16 Enstminger for another three year term? Isn't that -- he
17 said that we need to.....

18

19 MS. HILDEBRAND: No. He said the seat is
20 open.

21

22 MR. FLEENER: The seat is open.

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: The seat is open.

25

26 MR. FLEENER: Oh, he's no longer -- oh, I
27 thought he said -- okay, I misunderstood.

28

29 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers, National
30 Park Service. Mr. Enstminger's seat expires in March,
31 March 23rd next month. So you have an opportunity, Eastern
32 Interior Regional Council has an opportunity to reappoint
33 Mr. Enstminger or consider someone else for that seat, I
34 know Mr. Miller had expressed some interest in that seat.
35 So you may want to pursue that.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. FLEENER: No wonder he was nodding.

40

41 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead there, Nat.

44

45 MR. GOOD: I'd like to say that Frank
46 Enstminger has done a terrific job but there is a
47 problem.....

48

49 REPORTER: Nat.

50

00464

1 MR. GOOD: I'd like to say that Frank
2 Enstminger's done a terrific job but there is a problem
3 with the fact that, you know, he's not readily available to
4 us and if he is, it's going to cost us more money. One
5 consideration that I think we should make here is that if
6 there is an individual on the Council who is willing to
7 take the position, they will be here at every meeting and
8 able to report. And for that reason I would like to say
9 that, one, I hope that Frank, being a pretty important
10 member on that particular group and having done a good job,
11 I would hope that somebody else would appoint him if he is
12 not chosen by this Council but I would like to nominate
13 Chuck Miller.

14
15 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.

16
17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, it's been moved and
18 seconded. Is there any other nominations? Well, hearing
19 none.....

20
21 MR. C. TRITT: Call for the question.

22
23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question's been called.
24 All in favor of nominating me to the SRC signify by saying
25 aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

30
31 (No opposing votes)

32
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. We're down to --
34 if there are no other agency reports -- you have anything
35 Vince, you're giving me that look again?

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: No, I don't have any agency
38 reports I'm just getting ready for the next item.

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. The next item
41 review of Regional Council charter. Eastern Interior,
42 policy, bylaw to remove members.

43
44 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, due to the time of
45 the evening here and the length of our meeting and the fact
46 that this is probably not of great concern to Western
47 Interior, I move that we table the policy, bylaw to remove
48 member until our next meeting.

49
50 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, it's been moved by

00465

1 Nat and seconded by.....

2

3 MR. FLEENER: By Lincoln.

4

5 MR. L. TRITT: Second.

6

7 CHAIRMAN MILLER:by Lincoln.

8

9 MR. NICHOLIA: Question called.

10

11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question's been called.

12 All in favor of tabling the policy bylaw of removal of

13 member, please signify -- okay, Vince.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Did the vote happen?

16

17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Not yet, we're waiting

18 for you.

19

20 MR. FLEENER: You had that look in your eye

21 again.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: No, that's fine, go ahead
24 with the vote I'm trying to get to the next part. They're
25 only dealing with the policy now, this is not the charter.

26

27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, all in favor
28 signify by saying aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Moving down to --
37 okay, Vince.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe we can dispense with
40 the charter real quickly. You do need to adopt your
41 charter at this time, both Councils have talked and at the
42 last meeting approved the addition of the word for removal
43 of member of unexcused absence. You brought that up at
44 both your meetings last fall so now you need to just
45 decide, do you still want that to go forward, if you do,
46 then you would just pass the motion that you approve the
47 charter with the additional language of unexcused absences
48 added to it and then that would go forward. The charters
49 do need to be approved by you at this meeting.

50

00466

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

2

3 MR. NICHOLIA: I make a motion just what

4 Vince said.

5

6 MR. FLEENER: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, it's been moved by

9 Gerald and seconded by Craig.

10

11 MR. GOOD: Question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question's been called.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Saved me the trouble.

18 Now you got to do yours.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Is there a motion to

21 adopt Western's charter?

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

24

25 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

28

29 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we discussed that the

32 vacancy of two meetings, absence without excuse already.

33 Question's been called. All those in favor of the motion

34 signify by saying aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just for

45 clarity, that motion included adding the word, unexcused in

46 there?

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, let the record reflect

00467

1 due to the lateness of the meeting that the motion meant to
2 include the word, unexcused absences.

3
4 MS. HILDEBRAND: They did.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: They did? Oh, I didn't hear
7 it.

8
9 MR. FLEENER: Wake up, Vince.

10
11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Due to the time,
12 depending what the Council's view is on this I'd like to
13 kind of disburse with the correspondence received and sent,
14 if that's okay with the Councils?

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do away with them, we've got
17 them. We got them in our packet.

18
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, that moves us down
20 to Council member closing comments and concerns.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Close.

23
24 MR. FLEENER: Lincoln, you start.

25
26 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, I just want to this
27 wolf and moose crises we have here. I think it's a good
28 opportunity to learn what's going on in the whole Interior
29 area with that, you know. And I think we need to do more
30 studies into that. Because this way, we deal with the
31 whole area instead of just certain, our own areas, you
32 know.

33
34 That's all I want to say, thanks.

35
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Craig.

37
38 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
39 think that I've got several concerns, of course.

40
41 One of them deals with papers that are being handed
42 out during the meeting. And I'd like to, I don't know if
43 it can be enforced in any way, but when we receive
44 paperwork from any of the agency members I'd like to see
45 them signed and dated because when I take something home
46 and I go back to look at it it doesn't have a signature and
47 it doesn't have a date, it's just a piece of paper and it's
48 really a problem that I've noticed with several agencies.
49 One in particular that I work with all the time. But it
50 really would be much more convenient and I'd like for Vince

00468

1 to make that happen, somehow, when people prepare to pass
2 things out that they have someone's signature on it so I
3 know who to contact and a date. I think it'd be much more
4 professional.

5
6 I also think that we need to expand the .809
7 agreement program because of fisheries. And we've talked a
8 lot about doing cooperative projects and I think it would
9 be -- this is a great opportunity. We talked a lot about
10 gathering data and I think that we should expand the .809
11 program to cooperate more with the communities and
12 gathering a lot of this data instead of relying on college
13 students to do it, college students from Vermont to do it.
14 I think it'd be much better, more productive if we would do
15 it ourselves.

16
17 I also think that the Federal government and
18 whoever else is in that chain of command, needs to cut some
19 money loose for hiring the personnel necessary to
20 administer and assist with agreements that are necessary.
21 We've got a big problem of trying to run this enormous
22 program and the government's not cutting the money loose
23 that's necessary and they're not allowing the hiring of the
24 positions that are also important to running these
25 programs. And one of those is the .809 agreement program.

26
27 Wound loss is a growing concern, as we heard a lot
28 tonight. It needs to be addressed by State and Federal
29 agencies.

30
31 Wanton waste also is a tragedy that needs to be
32 prevented. And we need to -- and all of us want to
33 decrease waste.

34
35 Finally, I'd like to say that subsistence is our
36 number 1 priority, all else is secondary. Even though some
37 of us depend on commercial take, we need to maintain our
38 focus. This Council needs to maintain its focus on
39 subsistence no matter what it takes, we need to protect the
40 feeding of our families. We may need to limit our
41 commercial take, we may need to limit the ocean fishery, no
42 matter what, even if it's not popular and even if it's
43 expensive, we need to keep our eye on our main purpose for
44 coming to these meetings and that's to provide subsistence
45 opportunity with the rural preference.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, now, that Craig
50 took care of all our concerns we can go home.

00469

1 MR. FLEENER: Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Just kidding. Calvin, go
4 ahead.

5

6 MR. C. TRITT: My name's Calvin Tritt and I
7 think Craig said it all. But seriously, the meeting
8 between three regions is very important in the future so we
9 could make decisions working with one another. Without
10 that I don't think it will work. But as a Native people,
11 as Board members we -- I know that we can get somewhere
12 with it.

13

14 I really appreciate the Western Staff when they
15 announced that they were working with the culture
16 knowledge. I think this is an important part of growing
17 here between the Staff and the Board. The more we grow the
18 better job we'll be doing in the future so our kids will
19 appreciate what we appreciate today.

20

21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.

22

23 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, well, my closing
24 comments are pretty much has to do with wanton waste. This
25 is just a statement I want to make.

26

27 You know, in Tanana we deal with -- we're just like
28 on a super-highway, we're at the confluence of the Tanana
29 and Yukon Rivers and man we get, no matter what, we even
30 had King David floating down the river on a door one
31 summer, well, he called himself King David, they took him
32 away. But between sportfish and some -- all the agencies,
33 State agencies, and this Board and everybody's going to
34 have to distinguish when it comes to sports and subsistence
35 and commercial and subsistence, distinguish between want
36 and actual need. Now, I'm saying this from my personal
37 view.

38

39 So sport hunters really need to shoot wildlife when
40 they have other and more available means to acquire their
41 meat? It's question. And another question is, do
42 subsistence hunters really need to shoot wildlife when they
43 have no other available means to acquire meet? Why I say
44 that is there's no supermarkets out there. The price of
45 bread here is about \$3 or \$2 -- less than the price of
46 bread here, we pay \$5 for a can of Spam in Tanana, we
47 almost pay \$3 for a gallon of gas, you know.

48

49 That's just for my wildlife concerns, you know.

50

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1 On the fisheries part, we all have to stick
2 together, these three Councils, no matter what. This is a
3 Yukon River drainagewide and there's too many lines drawn
4 as it is right now. And I'd really like to -- my greatest
5 concern is for the Rampart and Stevens Village people, is
6 that, there's going to be a big difference right there
7 because that line is drawn from State to Federal. This is
8 going to -- that's why I really want to get Rampart people
9 involved in this so they could understand. It seems like
10 they're always the last ones to know but they're going to
11 have learn how to understand those lines and drawings. And
12 when we talk about proposals and stuff, we're really going
13 to have to know if it's on State land or on Federal land.
14 That's one big issue I always see come up.

15
16 And another thing, we have to realize that even if
17 we're Federal managers, State managers, non-Native or
18 Native or anybody that's here, we're all in this together.
19 What we do today matters tomorrow.

20
21 I've been listening to my elders for, I don't know
22 how long, and what I grew up with, there's plentiful
23 resources, and then now, after the high-seas, commercial,
24 big monies in there, I see it all dwindling. And I'm going
25 to make -- I'm going to bring you back to something; what
26 happened to the buffalo may happen to the fish and wildlife
27 here in Alaska if we don't do the right job here.

28
29 And concerning the fisheries, those three
30 resolutions, if the National Marine Fisheries or the North
31 Pacific Council Management body do not do nothing, these
32 three Councils come up with a five day moratorium on high-
33 sea intercept, and that will really open their eyes.

34
35 And that's just my closing comments.

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Gerald. Jim.

38
39 MR. WILDE: I don't talk much but these
40 guys do a fine job. I don't think a license is all a
41 hunter needs, I think he should have some education and
42 accuracy qualifications, awareness of his hunting area and
43 responsibilities of wound loss and wanton waste. And I
44 think -- I don't know they shouldn't just be able to buy it
45 and do anything he wants to.

46
47 And I'm impressed, everything.

48
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Jim. David.

50

00471

1 MR. D. JAMES: Just one item I would like
2 to get out of the way and have it on record is that I would
3 like to apologize to that gentleman I said -- that was
4 sitting over there yesterday, that he wasn't doing his job,
5 you know. I forgot his name, he had a long beard.

6
7 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Cegelske.

8
9 MR. D. JAMES: Not Dave, Cegelske, yeah.
10 You know, I've been raised, you know, not to criticize
11 other people's work without really knowing what they do.
12 So I would like to apologize to him.

13
14 I will give you my opinion of Bristol Bay, my
15 personal opinion after looking at all the facts and
16 listening to it for a couple of years, it's a crash system,
17 with all this warm weather coming around, you know. I wish
18 we could have done something long ago but politicians are
19 really hard to play around with.

20
21 The other issue I got here is the difference
22 between politician, political and biological. We have that
23 with our own tribal people. And we're having a workshop on
24 that. And that's where the problem lies. The State and
25 the Feds have a good Staff of people, I really like their
26 staff but they cannot do nothing when politics comes into
27 play. And this is where we need to utilize -- especially
28 on these policy changes with the State. We need to use
29 that system, that avenue there to change the political
30 people. Political people cannot manage resources, and
31 that's what's going on. So I would really like to utilize
32 this new policy direction that's coming up at the State to
33 help the managers in implementing their plan. Because
34 that's how -- you guys are going to need our help.

35
36 So the other one I got is it's kind of sad to hear
37 that there's communities out there being divided in their
38 moose management plan. I hope that don't spread anymore
39 around the State there and what we can learn from that
40 working group, all the problems that they've run into and
41 all the good stuff that's coming out.

42
43 The only way we can get our resources, the only
44 way, to have a healthier resource, is that, we got to pray
45 to our creator. He's the only one that can do it.

46
47 So that's -- and the other one there is through the
48 .809 agreement, I'd sure like to get a fisheries biologist
49 -- I already have a fisheries biologist but I sure need
50 some funds through that .809 agreement there.

00472

1 Okay, and that's it, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Davey. There
4 you go, Nat.

5

6 MR. GOOD: You know, sometimes there comes
7 a time to listen, and I think I've just enjoyed listening
8 to my fellow Council members waxing so eloquent. I think
9 they've done a great job, I'm very impressed by my peers up
10 here, you guys are great. I think this has been a very
11 productive meeting and I've certainly enjoyed the
12 opportunity to meet with Western Interior and I'm very
13 impressed by what they've done and I've learned a great
14 deal about their area and about them as individuals. I
15 thank them very much for this experience, and I'll end it
16 at that and listen to them.

17

18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Nat. I'd also
19 like to start off by thanking the Western Interior for
20 agreeing to this joint meeting here. I think we've both
21 learned a lot about our different areas and, you know, I
22 feel it's going to give us a better understanding of each
23 other's cultures and where we live, the way we hunt, the
24 way we fish, and I'd like to see something like this, you
25 know, go on again. I think these joint meetings seem to --
26 and, you know, for being the first one it went pretty
27 smooth, in fact, we're even done a day earlier.

28

29 And with that, I'll turn the mic over to my co-
30 Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for all the kind
33 comments Eastern. And I'm kind of glad that David did
34 apologize because he's Cegelske, Special Agent, Department
35 of Interior. And with that I'd like to start with Sam
36 Henry.

37

38 MR. HENRY: I'd like to comment on our --
39 say something on the line of what Gerald was saying about
40 our culture and stuff like that. We have to be careful of
41 what we are trying to control, like somebody was saying
42 earlier, yesterday I think, was something about beaver,
43 exterminate the beaver or kill off the beaver. You know,
44 we're going to end up losing -- we're already losing fish,
45 we're going to end up losing the moose and then we're going
46 to have end up looking for some sort of subsistence, some
47 sort of meat to replace the moose and fish, so we're going
48 to end up looking for beaver and muskrat, ptarmigan and
49 some other stuff like that. So we have to be careful of
50 what we -- how we manage the fish and ptarmigan and beaver.

00473

1 That's about all I got to say.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

4
5 MR. JONES: My name is Benedict Jones.
6 This meeting was really productive. One thing I'd like to
7 see on the fisheries issue is back in the 50s, I don't know
8 where the Japanese did some of their tagging, they did some
9 summer chum tagging, I don't know how much they tagged out
10 there. It was kind of interesting at that time to where
11 the fish was migrating, I don't think the Japanese didn't
12 know where -- which species of fish and what river they
13 were coming from. But that year, I think it was 1952 or
14 '53 at Bishop Mountain, the narrowest part of the Yukon
15 River on the -- down in the middle of the Yukon, they
16 recovered 10 tagged fish and at that time the Japanese were
17 giving the reward for 25 to \$50 reward for any tags
18 returned. And I'd like to see the agencies and the State
19 and other private parties to sponsor some kind of fish
20 study out on the high seas when -- on the fish migration,
21 then they could identify which species of fish is coming to
22 the tributaries, Yukon and Kuskokwim. And right now they
23 have no way of knowing which species fish go where, whether
24 it's Norton Sound, Kuskokwim area.

25
26 With that, I'd like to thank you for this meeting.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

29
30 MR. STICKMAN: I'd just like to thank the
31 Eastern Interior for having this joint meeting with us. I
32 thought it went really well. And I'd like to thank the
33 biologists, both the State and the Feds, and harvest
34 monitors and Refuge information techs, I guess I would like
35 to recognize them because without their information we
36 would have no basis for what we -- for our regulations that
37 we impose.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Angela.

42
43 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you for sharing all
44 your concerns because most of them are mine and I don't
45 have to say anything now. But the only concern I really
46 have and I have the same, to share all your ideas, I enjoy
47 being with you guys but my biggest thing is we never see
48 each other but twice a year. In between times, things come
49 up in my area and I'm sure they come up in your areas, why
50 can't we have a teleconference like on a monthly basis to

00474

1 see what's going on? Because, you know, when I see these
2 guys I see them once every six months and a lot of things
3 happen and a lot of that stuff can't get in the little time
4 we spend together having a meeting. But if keep each other
5 informed as to what's happening in our region. And I know
6 our Chairs both have credit cards, but I think a
7 teleconference, if possible, once a month.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: They're not Visa.

10
11 MS. DEMIENTIEFF:of something or you
12 know something similar to that so we could communicate more
13 because we're not.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela. I hope
18 you take that down for the record to explore the
19 possibility of obtaining an AT&T card for the rest of our
20 Council members.

21
22 MR. FLEENER: Credit cards, too.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Credit cards are only for
25 Chairs. Jack.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to say that I very
28 much appreciated watching the Eastern Interior Council work
29 and understand the issues over on that side of that
30 imaginary line there by Tanana. And I think that we had a
31 very productive meeting and we discussed a lot of very
32 important issues and hopefully we've remedied some of the
33 problems to provide for more subsistence for the
34 subsistence users in the future. A lot of the times we're
35 just running around stomping out fires but hopefully we're
36 going to turn on to the main stream of what the main
37 problems are. And I want to thank the various agency staff
38 that put in a lot of time and effort and they're still
39 sitting here at 7:00 o'clock waiting for us to finish, and
40 they've spent a lot of time compiling information and
41 getting ready for this meeting and I very much appreciate
42 that also.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Henry,
45 closing comments.

46
47 MR. DEACON: Well, everybody said what I
48 thought, too, so you know I'm really happy to be here as
49 one of the elders from our area. The reason, I really
50 think about this subsistence, there's a reason why it

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1 turned back to us, you know, as in elders that we have to
2 show respect for animals. We don't just throw animals
3 around and think it's going to be there forever. That's
4 what old-timers used to tell us, you respect the animals
5 and they will respect you or else if you don't respect them
6 they're not going to be back. Those are the same old-time
7 sayings. And those are the things that I like to teach my
8 grandchildren.

9
10 You know, we, as a Native group here, we're here
11 for a reason, we got to show respect, respect for each
12 other and for the animals.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you Henry for those
17 words. Ray.

18
19 MR. COLLINS: I appreciate everybody's
20 comments and I think it has been good to get together and
21 learn from one another. Over the last, about year and a
22 half, I've been working on two village histories and I've
23 been taking notes off and on on historical things in my
24 area since about 1963, and the thing that impressed me as I
25 drew towards the end of writing this up was how many people
26 that gave me information, elders that are now gone. And I
27 think one of the critical resources and sources of
28 knowledge that all of us use in making our decision is
29 really endangered as we lose those elders who really lived
30 the traditional life and moved around and knew where the
31 resources were. And I think it's critical and I'm glad to
32 hear that there are efforts being made to start plugging
33 that information into the management scheme while we still
34 got it. Because I think, you know, they weren't writing
35 books and making reports like biologists and others, and --
36 except for those of you who have been learning from them
37 and paying attention, we're going to lose that wisdom when
38 a lot of them are gone. So I'm glad to see it starting to
39 make an impact on some of our decision-making.

40
41 And it's been a privilege -- my education started
42 in 1963 in Arctic Village with some of the elders up there
43 and I appreciate what I've had to learn from over the years
44 from those elders.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. First of
49 all I'd like to thank Eastern Interior Council members for
50 instigating this joint meeting. They've been after us for

00476

1 about a year. And I think what made it come together was
2 our no knowledge or little knowledge of fisheries that we
3 are about to attempt to manage. It is a serious and it
4 will be a hard task to perform.

5
6 I will admit that we knew that sooner or later we
7 would have to meet jointly because of our overlapping
8 proposals and overlapping concerns, so I would like to
9 thank Eastern for getting this meeting together. We did
10 invite their delegation, they came right down and we sure
11 appreciate their attendance.

12
13 And for the record I would like to show that we
14 really appreciate it, our delegations from Y-K Delta and
15 send them out a thank you letter. I forgot to thank George
16 Yaska on record, so get a letter out to Huslia Tribal
17 Council.

18
19 And I feel privileged to serve with all you people.
20 I feel privileged to serve with an elder like Henry Deacon,
21 plus we also have an added benefit, we have a State
22 representative on our Board so I would invite Eastern
23 Interior to utilize him to the fullest of his extent.

24
25 Thank you for all the kind comments with him and
26 our Senator Georgianna Lincoln. Again, thank the Staff for
27 putting up with us through all this time.

28
29 I'll make it a little longer so our Court Recorder
30 will be a little more stressed with more work, and with
31 that I'd like to close. Thank you. Thank you, all.

32
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, we just have two
36 items. One, is you did have the representatives from Y-K
37 here, are you going to reciprocate and go their to meeting
38 on March 21st and 22nd in -- there was talk about
39 relocating the meeting so it's not like we don't know,
40 there was talk about it. So they did come here and spend
41 time so I don't know how you want to handle that but you
42 need to reciprocate, I believe.

43
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Does Gerald want to.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ronald.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, until we get an invite

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1 I think I'd leave it at that, even though it would be a
2 short -- short-term.

3
4 MR. NICHOLIA: Now, let me get this
5 straight, if this is concerning the fisheries Coordinating
6 Council, I think me and David James already committed to
7 that for the Eastern.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: So if I understand you would
10 want an invitation from the Y-K to go to their meeting, if
11 that's what you're saying?

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Kind of but I think we might
14 have some other Council members committed to that meeting.
15 Did anyone commit to the Bethel meeting? Jack.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: I was.....

18
19 MR. FLEENER: You're going Jack.

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: I was going to Anchorage.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, okay.

24
25 MR. GOOD: He's going.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I suppose what I could
28 take from that is that I need to coordinate with the Y-K
29 Council and if they do want people to go that Eastern has
30 already said it would be one or whatever of the
31 Coordinating Council, Western has two Coordinating Councils
32 so I don't know if it's -- you know, I don't know,
33 whatever. But I'll just work through the Chair for Western
34 Interior on that.

35
36 I didn't get a chance to talk to Robert Nick to see
37 if they -- did anybody talk to him about that they wanted
38 representation from these two Councils.

39
40 MR. NICHOLIA: Vince, I think it was very
41 well explained in that meeting in Anchorage when all three
42 Councils sat down, we would send our delegates to each
43 other's meetings.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's what I thought.
46 So I don't know if Western.....

47
48 MR. NICHOLIA: I think because of what
49 Robert said that he wished Harry Wilde was here, that he
50 expressed as being the Chair for Y-K, he would express that

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1 he would have invited us or something because I talked to
2 him in Anchorage.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So we know who would
5 be going for Eastern, which would be either Gerald or
6 Davey, or both, what about Western?

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: What dates are those?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: 21st and 22nd, and I don't
11 know how -- you know, how long -- I assume it will be
12 another day travel to get there because you got to go
13 through Bethel, 21st and 22nd of March.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

16

17 MR. STICKMAN: Where's this at now?

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I remember right Robert
20 said they might have moved it to Bethel. Find that out and
21 get this out to our Council right away. And I think that
22 we should attend their meeting out of courtesy because they
23 did send delegates so if nobody else will go I may be able
24 to.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Do you have any -- I hate to
27 keep pushing this but because of the travel stuff that I
28 got to work through I have to have names to start the
29 process even though you may cancel.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela commits.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Angela would go then,
34 okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anybody else because we have
37 two going from Eastern? Go ahead and commit me for the
38 time being until -- unless we come up with somebody else.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: So you and Angela then?

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The other issue, I'm
45 not real clear on and I apologize for the lateness of
46 bringing this up but there was discussion about putting
47 aside discussion on Area M fisheries and I believe there's
48 literature here on Area M, so maybe Ida can straighten me
49 out; she's tried three times but I haven't succeeded.

50

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1 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
2 Committee member. At the caucus in the Anchorage workshop
3 you directed Staff to assist you in drafting proposals on
4 Area M. Those proposals were drafted and were supposed to
5 be looked over by the Councils or Council Chairs at some
6 point during this meeting. If you don't have time to do
7 that and choose not to, that's fine, however, if you wish
8 to submit proposals, the State closing date is April 10th,
9 I believe.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

12
13 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, Ida, if me and Davey's
14 on the Coordinating Councils and two other people's on this
15 Coordinating Council, if you bring this to the Y-K meeting
16 we will bring information back to our respective Councils.

17
18 MS. HILDEBRAND: It's right there.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could we hand out, do we
21 have enough to go around to all the Council members?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

24
25 MS. HILDEBRAND: There's 20 copies of each.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, there's 20 of each.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: So there's no problem.

32
33 MR. FLEENER: We can have two.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chairman.

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, before I forget I
40 would like a letter drafted by Vince from both Councils
41 thanking FNA for the elders comments and the opening
42 prayer.

43
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Before we close, I'd like
45 to see if Henry Deacon would like to close this meeting in
46 prayer.

47
48 MR. DEACON: Heavenly Father we thank you
49 for gathering here. We thank you for all that's been said
50 and we ask you for thy blessing on all this three day

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1 meeting and send us on our way home in happiness.

2

3 Thank you. Amen.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Henry.

6

7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I entertain a motion
8 to.....

9

10 MR. FLEENER: Are we going to see if we
11 want to do something with this before we.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we could all take a
14 copy of this and then come back to Ida and Vince right
15 away.

16

17 MR. FLEENER: When is the deadline for
18 proposals?

19

20 MS. HILDEBRAND: April 10th, I believe.

21

22 MR. FLEENER: So there would be no coming
23 back with this, April 10th is the deadline for proposal
24 submission.

25

26 MS. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, you don't need --
27 I thought we closed. Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee
28 member. You don't need my comments or my approval, you
29 just need to read the material and it's only one page on
30 each, the rest is just background. If you agree with this
31 submit it, if you don't agree with it trash it or table it
32 or whatever.

33

34 MR. FLEENER: Move to adjourn.

35

36 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

37

38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, it's been moved and
39 seconded.

40

41 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Question.

42

43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question's been called.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So we're out of here.

48

49 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

50

* * * * *

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 284 through 481 contain
a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME III, EASTERN
AND WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
COUNCILS MEETING, taken electronically by Salena Hile on the
24th day of February, 2000, beginning at the hour of 8:40
o'clock a.m. at the Chief Peter John Tribal Hall, Fairbanks,
Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested
in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 12th day of March, 2000.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00